



KENT ON SUNDAY

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IDLE JOBLESS SHOULD EARN THEIR KEEP

KCC leader's view on work-shy benefit claimants

YOUNG, able-bodied adults claiming benefits should be made to carry out community work, according to the leader of Kent County Council.

Cllr Paul Carter told Kent on Sunday it was not acceptable that young people who are able to work are claiming welfare.

He said the Government must invest in works programmes such as cleaning verges or supporting the elderly. Those that refuse to do the community work should then have their benefits reduced, he said.

"I believe we ought to have a system where under-25s who are capable of work should be found work in community works programmes.

"For those young people who are able and capable of doing a good day's work we have a duty to create employment.

"When they leave school at 16 or 18

EXCLUSIVE

 By **PHIL REILLY**

we need to make sure there's employment opportunities for them. We mustn't allow them to sink into welfare dependency."

Nearly five million people in the UK are on out-of-work benefits, which costs the economy billions of pounds a year.

In Kent, there are around 90,000 people who are dependent on working age benefits – income support, incapacity benefit and Jobseeker's Allowance – costing the taxpayer

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



Scorsese shines his light on the Stones

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY

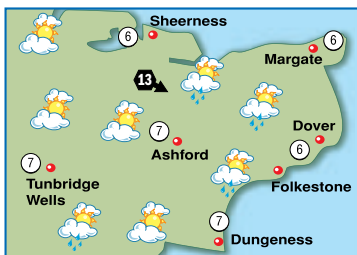
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Kent today



TODAY: Bright with sunny spells but also showers. The evening is expected to see further showers. A moderate north-westerly wind. Max temp 4-7C (39-45F). **TONIGHT:** Showers dying out, then mostly dry with clear intervals. Moderate winds. Possible frost. Min temp -2 to 1C (28 to 34F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	sleet	5	41	London	fair	8	46
Belfast	fair	9	48	Liverpool	showers	7	45
Birmingham	snow	6	43	Manchester	hail	7	45
B'mouth	hail	7	45	Newcastle	sleet	6	43
Bristol	fair	7	45	Norwich	snow	6	43
Cardiff	fair	8	46	Oxford	cloudy	7	45
Cork	fair	8	46	Southsea	fair	8	46
Edinburgh	fair	7	45	Shampton	fair	8	46
Glasgow	fair	8	46	Southport	sun	-	-
Isle of Man	fair	8	46	Swansea	showers	8	46
Leeds	showers	5	41	Torquay	fair	8	46

Sun & moon

Sunrise	6.18am	Sunset	7.38pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	6.01am	Moonsset	8.41pm	7.38pm to 6.18am

High Tides

	today		tomorrow
	ht (m)	ht (m)	ht (m)
Dover	11.52 6.7 -	-	00.11 6.9 12.33 6.8
Margate	00.29 4.6 13.06 4.7	-	01.10 4.7 13.45 4.7
St Mary's	05.33 5.9 17.53 5.8	-	06.13 6.0 18.33 5.9

Week ahead

monday Isolated showers. max 9C min 0C	thursday Sunny spells. max 11C min 5C
tuesday Sunny spells. max 10C min 1C	friday Isolated showers. max 11C min 6C
wednesday Isolated showers. max 11C min 3C	saturday Isolated showers. max 11C min 5C

'Able-bodied young people should work'

CONTINUED ON FROM FRONT PAGE

£344.7 million last year.

Kent was praised last month for its approach to tackling unemployment by the independent think tank the New Local Government Network.

The county has two main approaches to tackling joblessness in the under-25s.

It runs a 14-24 Innovation Unit, which works with schools and businesses to encourage pupils to take vocational courses, as well as the Kent Success apprenticeship programme.

The issue of welfare reform shot to the top of the agenda in Kent after Conservative Medway councillor John Ward published comments on his online blog that there was "a strong case" for sterilising parents who have a second or third child while claiming welfare benefits.

The comments sparked strong reactions from politicians of all persuasions and Mr Ward resigned from the council.

Skills

A spokesman for the Department of Work and Pensions said it was launching a new three-stage Jobseeker's Allowance process in April 2009, which would include skills screening for applicants.

A spokesman said: "The Department for Work and Pensions aims to help as many people as possible off welfare benefits and into employment. That includes all under-25s.

"This new regime combines the requirements to look for and take work as a condition of benefit and access to work-related skills training,



TOUGH: Cllr Paul Carter, leader of KCC

matching rights with responsibilities.

"From October 2009, longer-term job seekers will be referred to an external provider for further, specialist help tailored to the individual – the flexible New Deal. The DWP will focus on improving employability to help people get and keep work. Providers will be paid

for delivering sustainable job outcomes."

Meanwhile, a campaign by our sister paper, Yourashford, to crackdown on benefit fraudsters has been hailed as a success just two months after its launch.

The 'Your Money – Your Loss' campaign started in Yourashford paper on February 6 in partnership with Ashford Borough Council.

It is aimed at ensuring that taxpayers' money goes to community projects to benefit us all – and to catch those cheating the system.

Within weeks, the council's benefit fraud investigators reported a big surge in the number of calls they were receiving, leading to a host of new investigations.

They have started around 30 new benefit fraud investigations since the campaign began and say they have been inundated with new lines of inquiry.

Message

James Plaskitt MP, a minister at the Department for Work and Pensions, has also thrown his weight behind the campaign.

Mr Plaskitt said: "I have been very impressed by the stories Yourashford has been running in its campaign.

"I think it helps to get the message across to the small minority of people who think they can get away with fraud. It gives the message to the rest of the community that it will not be tolerated. Five years ago the figure lost to the taxpayer was £2.3 billion. Last year, that had dropped by £800m. We are now catching a record number of people. Last year we successfully prosecuted 624 people in Kent."

KCC denies claims it is using public money to compete with private firms

A BUS operator is making an official complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman after he lost a prime route to a company run by Kent County Council.

John Mancini, who runs Kingsman, in Faversham, was dismayed to find his bid to run the service was beaten by KCC, which not only issues the tender, but also decides on the winner.

He claimed the council was using taxpayers' money to subsidise the tender won by its company, Kent Top Travel – which KCC denies.

He said: "They are putting people like me out of business.

"KCC sends out the tenders, they then look at the tenders and

then decide who wins the tender. And then they award it to themselves on a figure that no-one else can match. What if they don't run the service properly? Will they fine themselves?"

Kingsman, Bzee Bus and KCC's Kent Top Travel put in bids to operate the 666 route from Faversham to Ashford.

Mr Mancini said: "Their bid of £89,950 won't cover the cost of running the service with drivers' wages, vehicles and fuel. That means money is coming from somewhere else, and that can only be the council tax. That means public money is being used to help put me out of business.

"Kent Top Travel is now one of

the largest bus companies in Kent – funded entirely by the people of Kent. It is unfair practice and I am taking my case to the Local Government Ombudsman to see what he makes of it."

KCC's commercial services department has provoked controversy because of contracts awarded to firms run by the county council.

Private businesses have questioned how they are able to win deals at extremely low prices.

Cllr Trudy Dean, Liberal Democrat leader on KCC, is calling for external auditors to investigate the trading relationship between KCC and its companies and show there is no cross sub-

sidy in cash or 'in kind'.

She has questioned whether there is any favouritism in the system which leads KCC to favour one contractor over another.

Cllr Nick Chard, KCC's member for finance, denied that KCC is using council taxpayers' money to subsidise its companies.

He said PriceWaterhouseCooper and the Audit Commission had investigated complaints and found KCC had not used taxpayers' money to subsidise its companies.

"What the private sector have a problem with is that there is clearly competition," added Cllr Chard. "They feel that as the public sector we shouldn't be competing with them."

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Chart-topping band rock the town hall at intimate secret gig

What a Feeling!

By **PHIL REILLY**

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THE grandiose surroundings of Dover's ancient town hall are not the sort of place you will usually find pop stars like The Feeling.

The chart-topping band came to the port town on Monday to play an intimate gig in front of just 200 fans as part of Invicta FM's Live at the Local series.

When Kent on Sunday caught up with the five Londoners shortly before the show in a grand, but little-used council chamber in the back of the building, they said they may be used to larger crowds, but they don't usually enjoy such opulent green rooms.

Huddled in the middle of the room surrounded by medieval standards and imposing paintings of noblemen from centuries past, the five floppy haired young men cut humble figures.

Singer Dan Gillespie Sells said although the group had grown accustomed to big venues and festival crowds since their debut album, *Twelve Stops and Home*, catapulted them to stardom in 2006, they were always at home in small venues.

"We used to play in the Swiss Alps during ski seasons a few years ago in all sorts of small venues," he explained.

"We actually went back recently to make a documentary and revisit these little pubs we used to play. Actually, that was probably the last time we were in Dover too."

It turns out the bands were regular visitors to the county during those days, but mostly just to hop on and off cross-Channel ferries.

They were less familiar with the town itself, although they were full of praise for its award-winning *Light of India* curry house, where they had eaten the night before.

Grandeur

As singer Dan recounted the band's history, they have been together in one form or another for 13 years and earned their stripes playing covers of 70s rock and 80s pop songs, bassist Richard Jones' attention seemed to wander.

It soon became clear he was transfixed by one of the room's paintings.

"I recognise that painting," he said beckoning the other band members over for a closer look at a huge 18th century oil painting of Lionel Sackville, the one-time Duke of Dorset.

"Isn't that the one we had hanging over the stairs?"

As coincidence would have it, a version of the same painting hung in Bradley House, the manor house belonging to the Duke of Somerset in which the band recorded their new album. Perhaps they are not so unaccustomed to such grandeur after all.

Bounding on stage shortly before 7.30pm, the band were greeted with rapturous applause. They plunged straight into recent single *Thought It Was Over* before leading a mass singalong during the chorus of second song *Fill My Little World*.

Dan was clearly having fun on stage and

Pictures: PHIL HOUGHTON



GUITAR HERO: Just 200 fans won tickets to see The Feeling play at Dover Town Hall



was keen to get the crowd to clap and sing along, even splitting the audience in half at one stage and having them compete against each other during *Never Be Lonely*.

The hour-and-a-quarter-long show was interrupted for two question and answer sessions, with Invicta FM DJs James Heming and Ali Wheeler introduced questions from the audience.

They were brief interludes and soon the boys were back rattling through a set packed full of hits like *Sewn and Without You*, before ending with perhaps the biggest singalong of the night during *Love It When You Call*.

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KoS beats wedding Watergate

KENT on Sunday was the only newspaper in Britain not to be fooled by a Virgin Radio prank for April Fools Day.

Breakfast presenter Christian O'Connell sent newspapers around the country a spoof wedding photograph of himself and sidekick Brian Murphy, dressed as Elvis and his bride.

The presenter, writing under the guise of Margaret Ryan, claimed the couple, renamed Chris O'Donnell and Briony Murphy, had got married at St Cosmos and St Damien's Church in Blean and held a reception at Abbots Barton Hotel in Canterbury.

The newlyweds had apparently been

together for six years and headed to Memphis for their honeymoon.

KoS quickly spotted the ruse and published a story about the failed prank which was read out on air on April Fools Day by Mr O'Connell.

Mr O'Connell said our journalism was worthy of BBC flagship current affairs programme *Newsnight*, adding: "This is real Watergate stuff."

At least nine other UK papers were fooled by the prank including the *Kentish Express*, part of the Kent Messenger group, which published the wedding picture and accompanying text.

Sadness at British stance on Zimbabwe

VITAL conservation work in one of the world's wildest and most beautiful places is under threat because of the current economic and political crisis in Zimbabwe, according to a Canterbury-born conservationist.

Dick Pitman, who left for the southern African country in the early 1970s, raised concerns about how the shortage of money was affecting conservation management.

The founding member of the Zambezi Society, who has spent more than 30 years working to protect endangered species in the country, said Zimbabwe still has its national parks and good wildlife populations.

But the future of these "depends very largely on the resolution of the economic and political crisis", he told KoS from his home in the capital Harare.

Recent elections resulted in the combined opposition taking the majority in parliament while the outcome of the presidential elections was due to be announced by the electoral commission at the end of Friday.

It is the first time since the country's independence in 1980, that the ruling party, led by President Robert Mugabe, has not had control of parliament.

Up to 10,000 British residents live in Zimbabwe, said Mr Pitman; their main concern is the economic situation, which has seen massive levels of inflation.

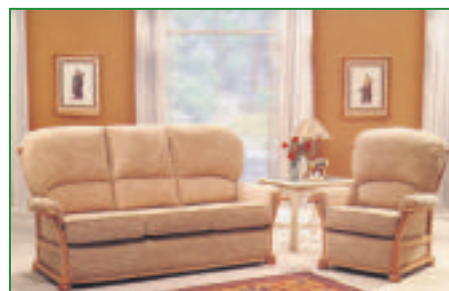
Mr Pitman, 65, also spoke of his sadness at the failure of British politicians to develop a more constructive working relationship with Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe is more complex than many overseas commentators portray, said Mr Pitman. He accused the international media of a skewed view, with "counter-productive" reporting on the elections based on "rumour and speculation - a lot of it false".

And Britain missed an opportunity when the premiership changed: "One of the saddest things for me is the enormous tension between Britain and Zimbabwe. There could have been an attempt to reach out."

Last year, KoS interviewed the former Maidstone Grammar School boy about his autobiography, *A Wild Life*.

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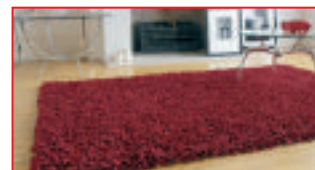
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Officer suspended as 120 speeding cases are dropped

By **PHIL REILLY**

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A POLICE officer has been suspended and 120 speeding cases dropped after it was found a speed camera may have been misused.

Kent Police has confirmed the officer was suspended after a court case was discontinued last month.

A spokeswoman said the cases were then dropped as "a precaution" but would not go into any more detail because she said the matter was still being investigated.

The situation was first reported by Motorcycle News, which claimed the officer had deliberately 'fixed' a speed gun to make it appear motorists were going faster than they were.

The spokeswoman insisted it was not possible to 'fix' the hand-held LT120-20TS/M camera to record higher speeds and the issue was with the operator not the equipment.

She said: "We've suspended a member of police staff on a procedural matter pending an internal investigation. This is standard



BEWARE: The LT120-20TS/M camera

practice while an inquiry is conducted.

"Speed enforcement by the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership continues as normal.

"Speed enforcement has an important role in keeping our roads safe for all users and Kent Police continues to enforce the law on the county's roads.

"Staff are trained to follow the manufacturers' guidelines, policy and training so this area of enforcement is delivered consistently and to the professional standard the travelling public expect and deserve."

Use of hand-held speed guns was temporarily suspended in south Kent last October after magistrates in Folkestone found one had not been calibrated properly.

The spokeswoman insisted the equipment used in that case was different to the LT20-20TS/M speed gun and that in both cases it was the officers using the equipment that were at fault and not the devices.

Withdrawal

Brian MacDowall, spokesman for the Association of British Drivers (ABD), said that mobile speed cameras had a "long history of misreading speeds".

He said: "We want to see the withdrawal of these cameras because they are proven to misread."

"The ABD supports a complete change of road policy from government including the removal of the excessive number of speed cameras, traffic calming measures and cutting of speed limits. Instead we would like to see a nationwide advanced driver programme."

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Dickens' desk sale

THE desk used by Charles Dickens to write Great Expectations is to be auctioned on behalf of Great Ormond Street Hospital.

The widow of the writer's great-great-grandson is donating the item to raise funds for the children's hospital.

Dickens, who lived in Kent, was a supporter of the hospital and was a friend of its founder, Charles West.

The mahogany desk is expected to raise between £50,000-80,000 when it goes under the hammer in June.

Tee off for charity

YOU could be one of the first to tee off at Eastwell Manor's new nine-hole golf course.

Named by the hotel as The Eastwell 9, the course was built as an extension to the leisure facilities currently offered to visitors.

The 2,132-yard course is set in the surroundings of the hotel in Boughton Aluph.

Ashford Rotary Club is holding a charity golf day to raise money for Demelza house and the Wyvern School in Ashford, on Friday May 16.

The day will consist of 18 holes of golf, followed by a two-course meal and coffee.

For details of how to get involved, contact John Hardie on 01233 6365535 or by email on jhardie@dpb.nhs.uk.

Assault charges

TWO men have been charged after a police dog handler was assaulted.

Joby Wilson, 35 of Cranwell Road, Tunbridge Wells, has been charged with wounding with intent, obstructing a constable in the execution of duty, driving whilst disqualified and using a vehicle without insurance.

Anthony Bishop, 37, of Rochester Road, Cuxton, was charged with wounding with intent.

Both were due before Medway magistrates on Friday.

The police officer was knocked unconscious and suffered facial injuries during the alleged incident on Wednesday.

Police stay tight-lipped on phone tap usage

KENT Police has refused to answer questions about the use of phone tapping, email monitoring and other methods of intercepting communications.

Using the Freedom of Information Act, Kent on Sunday requested details of police intercepts of private communications.

That included asking how many applications to use intercepts were made by the force and how many were granted.

We also asked for a breakdown showing the different types of intercept methods and how many times they were used.

Kent Police took longer than the required 20 days to provide an answer – and then rejected the requests.

They gave more than two A4 pages of justification for not providing the details. They said it would be a criminal offence under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to answer our requests.

Kent Police said it had taken into account advice given by bodies such as the Association of Chief Police Officers and

Home Office and concluded it was not in the public interest to disclose the details.

Nigel Amos, FOI advisor for Kent Police, said: "If the police service were to either confirm or deny these questions, other covert surveillance tactics will either be compromised or significantly weakened."

"To confirm or deny information about covert policing tactics will impede on any ongoing or future investigations. It may also hinder criminal and national security intelligence-led operations."

He added: "Any release of information that would harm the ability of the police service to conduct investigations and protect the public is clearly not in the public interest."

"Existing scrutiny frameworks exist, which report to the highest levels of government to ensure appropriate use of the legislation and provide high-level surveillance data."

It emerged earlier this year that Thames Valley Police bugged conversations between Labour MP Sadiq Khan and a friend who was in prison awaiting extradition to the US.

Soap star signs for Invicta FM

INVICTA FM listeners now have a weekly date with Australia's finest male export – Jason Donovan.

The new weekly show launches today and will feature a mix of music, chat and celebrity interviews.

Mr Donovan said: "I'm really excited about the show and I can't wait to get started. It's going to be a fast-paced show with a little something for everyone. I'm delighted that I

will be broadcasting across Kent, and hope that they like what they hear."

Neil Webster, programme controller for Invicta FM said: "Jason Donovan is a great choice for Sunday evenings on Invicta FM."

"As Kent's largest radio station, we're constantly aiming to make sure we've got the best talent on air. Jason has a huge fan base across the county and I'm certain we're going to get some great radio from this Sunday."

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Ex-PM Blair slammed at business exhibition

By **TONY PATEY**
Business Editor

FORMER BBC Director General Greg Dyke on Thursday lashed out at his ex-bosses and ex-prime minister Tony Blair at Kent 2020 Vision, the county's largest annual business to business exhibition.

Mr Dyke, who was a keynote speaker at the Detling showground event, said it was four years since he had left the BBC following a storm caused by a controversial story about the need to go to war in Iraq because of alleged weapons of mass destruction.

He said: "If I was still in charge of the BBC I would have described the governors of the BBC as fine, upstanding people, but I can tell you most of them were hopeless, gutless bastards and the sooner the whole of the BBC governors system is changed the better."

"The evidence is quite clear that both the British and US governments grossly exaggerated the case for war. The BBC story that led to my departure was right. We were right and they were wrong."

"We as journalists did our job, Tony Blair did not do his, as we have expected of a Prime Minister. We as journalists told it as it was. He didn't. But, as journalists, we also know that being right does not mean you always win."

He outlined the cultural changes he brought about at the fusty old Beeb, and stressed that the accountants should not be allowed to rule the roost and should be made to give information in a form that could be understood for action by managers.

A record 3,500-plus visitors went along to



DINNER SPEAKER: Graham Whitehead

the event, organised by Business Link with a range of supporters, with more than 350 exhibitors, also a record.

Keynote speakers were Professor Richard Scase, a leading business forecasters, entrepreneur Karen Darby, who set up her first company at just 22, historian Dr David Starkey and Alan Knight, advisor to the government and the Virgin group. In the evening Graham Whitehead, one of BT's leading consultants and a visiting professor at Salford University, spoke at the dinner.

The event was sponsored by KCC for the third year running, and as the biggest conference and exhibition in the county it is a major meeting point for businesspeople wanting to network, and for firms and clients to get together.

Roger Gough, Kent County Council's cabinet member for regeneration and supporting



ON THE ATTACK: Greg Dyke

independence said KCC now had its three-year outlook for its budget and, although not as tough as expected, the council would still need to work more efficiently.

At the event's dinner, winner of the Kent Innovation Challenge was announced as hydrogen technology firm Oil Drum, based at the Canterbury Enterprise Hub at Canterbury University. Director Darryl Watts accepted the £20,000 prize on behalf of the firm from challenge chairman Tim Bentley.

Mr Watts said: "We have been going for 18 months and we produce a fuel-saving device for commercial vehicles which allows them to enjoy a fuel savings and increased environmental benefits with regards to reduced exhaust gases, primarily carbon dioxide."

• **More details on the event in next week's Business Section.**

Recruitment boss admits he started disturbance

KENT on Sunday sleuths soon got to the bottom of a mystery which puzzled security staff at the 2020 business to business exhibition this week when it was reported that there was a "disturbance" at the massive Kent County Council stand.

When they were asked by their bosses to intervene, one of the people apparently responsible – the description was "male, tall, quite well built, wearing a pin-striped suit and colour-ful tie" – had vanished.

Undercutting

But it didn't take KoS long to track down and get a full and frank confession from the mystery gent – well-known Kent businessman Jack Parkinson, chairman of the big HR GO recruitment empire, who was spearheading a protest by a group of private businesspeople angry at KCC's growing external commercial activities.

Mr Parkinson – who also had a big stand at the event – readily admitted it was him and added that a spin-off "ginger" group from a recent face-to-face meeting between private companies and KCC had decided to target the exhibition.

They decided to hand out leaflets headed "Hands off Private Business – Does KCC compete unfairly with you?"

Mr Parkinson said: "They are undercutting us, using their strength and muscle to steal business from private individuals."

Labour rebellion over Brown's tax changes

LABOUR backbenchers are in revolt over a tax U-turn by Gordon Brown, which they believe will hit poor families hardest.

The Government this week scrapped the 10p starting rate of income tax, which was introduced when Mr Brown was Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1999.

The first £5,435 an individual earns will be tax-free and the next £36,000 will be taxed at 20 per cent. Previously, £5,225 was tax free with the next £2,230 taxed at just 10 per cent. The next £32,369 was then taxed at 22 per cent.

There has been outcry from many backbenchers who fear that the poorest people in their constituencies will be hit by the cut.

Gwyn Prosser, Labour MP for Dover and Deal, is one of 30 to have signed an Early Day Motion calling on the Prime Minister to "correct this damaging change to the taxation system".

Mr Prosser said: "When people come to my surgery, of course there's going to be moans and groans but in almost all circumstances I can defend or explain Government action in a fair way."

"On this subject I've got no answer to them."

Conservative leader David Cameron said abolishing the 10p starting rate would mean 5.3 million of the lowest paid workers would pay more tax, including many soldiers, NHS staff and teaching assistants.

As well as scrapping the 10p rate the Government has raised the earning threshold for working tax credits, making them available to more people.

Dr Stephen Ladyman, Labour MP for South Thanet, said the change was "good news" and

urged low-paid workers to see if they qualify even if they do not have children.

He said: "It is important that everyone in Kent gets the money they are entitled to."

A Treasury spokesman said the changes simplified the tax system and created the lowest basic rate of income tax for more than 75 years.

He said: "A result of the package, 21m households will either gain, or be no worse off. The changes mean households with children will be on average £200 per year better off, and will lift a further 200,000 children out of poverty."

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Health staff clean up

By **PHIL REILLY**

phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

A NEW report has shown a rise in the number of hospital workers washing their hands just days after KOS Media launched a campaign to encourage hygiene.

The East Kent Hospitals Patient and Public Involvement Forum conducted an audit of people using alcohol hand washing solution at the William Harvey, Kent and Canterbury, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother hospitals.

It took place on February 7, just four days after KOS Media started the campaign to promote hand hygiene at home, work, hospitals and healthcare centres across the county. The aim of the campaign is to reduce super-bug infections.

Volunteers from the forum observed more than 1,500 doctors, nurses, patients, visitors and other staff, and found that more were using alcohol gel to keep their hands clean



than during a previous audit last October.

The audit found that 64 per cent of doctors, 67 per cent of nurses, 80 per cent of other health care workers, 17 per cent of patients and 41 per cent of visitors were seen to use alcohol gel when entering or leaving wards.

The report's author, John Fletcher, said this was an improvement on the previous audit, but said more should be done to make sure those entering hospitals wash their hands at the entrances.

He also said door cleaning should be a priority and insisted it was important for staff who move from ward to ward to clean their hands regularly.

Among the most common excuses made by those caught not cleaning their hands were; "I forgot"; "I didn't know" and "I have just done it or am about to do it at the next ward".

Sarah Andrews, director of nursing and lead for infection control in Eastern and Coastal Kent, said she was delighted to see a rise in the number of people using the alcohol gel so soon after the launch of the campaign.

She said: "We hope this shows this important campaign is having a positive effect on cleanliness in our hospitals and public health."

"The PPI Forum's report on their hygiene audit is always very helpful. Hopefully when the next audit is done we will see a further rise in the number of people using the gel, then we will be certain that our campaign is working."

"If anyone would like to help by displaying a poster they can contact our communications team on 01227 791166 who will be happy to send one to them."

KOS Media's campaign has been launched in partnership with the NHS.

It follows the devastating outbreaks of the killer bug Clostridium difficile in west Kent, which the health watchdog found was responsible for the deaths of at least 90 people.

MP attacks Government terror proposal

A LABOUR MP has spoken out against the Government's Counter-Terrorism Bill in the House of Commons.

Bob Marshall-Andrews, MP for Medway, gave a speech during a debate on the bill this week.

He told the Commons civil liberties were "the defining characteristic of our nation" and argued against extending the length of time

terrorist suspects can be held without charge to 42 days.

He said: "If 42 days is the period of time required to do justice in the circumstances that are envisaged why, two years ago, were honourable members on my side of the House whipped to approve a period double that which is now deemed to be necessary? That question has never been answered to my satisfaction."

"What is the blazing, Damascene truth that has suddenly caused ministers to say, 'We got it wrong. We were going to lock people up for six weeks, which was completely unnecessary. We are very sorry'?"

He added: "We should not have trusted the argument two years ago, and there is absolutely no reason why we should do so now."

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Police believe rape suspects have escaped the country

TWO men suspected of raping a teenage girl are thought to have fled abroad.

Ali Khardo, 22, and Shamal Hussain, 20 – both Iraqi nationals – are being hunted by police after skipping bail and abandoning their homes.

A police spokesman said: "There is every possibility they have fled abroad."

The pair were initially arrested on suspicion of attacking a terrified 19-year-old in Rochester High Street last November.

The men, who gave addresses in the Gravesend area, were captured on CCTV cam-

eras in the early hours of the morning on the date of the attack and questioned by police officers.

Khardo and Hussain were released on bail for further investigation but failed to report to Medway police station as required.

Officers went to their homes in a bid to locate the pair but did not find the men.

Khardo is 6ft and of average build. Hussain is 5ft 6ins and stocky.

Anyone with any information can call the police on 01634 891055 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Quaker's legacy is housing for the 'deserving poor'

By **TONY PATEY**

tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

YOUNG farmer's boy Michael Yoakley often drifted down to the quay at Margate, way back in the mid-1600s when the town had just 600 dwellings and a population of around 2,400.

There he used to watch the comings and goings of the hoys – small freight boats which plied between London and the north Kent coast – and one day he got chatting to a captain. It changed his life.

He joined the captain's crew, later took over as captain – and then went on to become a successful merchant with his own hoy fleet.

But, as an early Quaker, he was determined to use his money to help others. He had promised his widowed mother that he would build almshouses for what were called the deserving poor, with his mother very much in mind.

In 1701, seven years before he died, he bought Drapers Estate where he had worked as a farmer's boy.

After his death the well-known local almshouses were built there, as well as a chapel where Norwich-born Quaker Elizabeth Fry, the prison and social reformer

and Christian philanthropist, worshipped.

This year Michael Yoakley's Charity is celebrating the tercentenary of his death with a high-profile midsummer event. A garden party will be held in the extensive grounds on June 28, including a historic display of his life, and also live entertainment.

The charity is currently employing the services of the history department at Christ Church University to research more of its history.

The department is producing a booklet for the summer's events and possibly a longer history later.

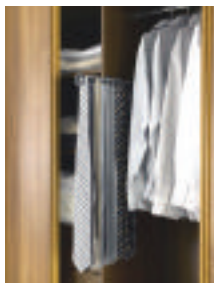
Quakers

On July 3 there will be a thanksgiving service at Margate Parish Church where Mr Yoakley was baptised more than 370 years ago.

The charity now accommodates 80 residents – 45 in the historic Drapers almshouses, 10 in the neighbouring more modern detached bungalows, and 25 in Yoakley House, a modern care home for more dependent residents.

Residence may be open to anyone over the age of 65, but preference is given, under the terms of Michael Yoakley's Will, to the "deserving poor", Quakers, and residents of Margate or nearby areas.

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ENGLISH HERITAGE

Days out worth talking about.

By **PHIL REILLY** and
ROB LIVINGSTONE

Government keeps Anglo-French Stack talks a secret

THE Foreign Secretary did discuss the strike action that wreaked havoc on Kent's roads with his French counterpart during last week's Anglo-French summit.

The Government this week confirmed that David Miliband raised the matter with his counterpart Bernard Kouchner.

British officials were last week unable to say if the contentious issue had been aired and the topic was missing from a new communiqué signed by both Britain and France.

A Foreign Office spokeswoman has now said the strike action was discussed "as part of the wider summit".

But she said: "We can't give any further detail on it beyond that our concerns were raised about the SeaFrance strike."

The strike action was largely responsible for the implementation of Operation Stack for a record 16 consecutive days from February 28.

It caused huge disruption for Kent motorists and is estimated to have cost businesses around £8 million.

On March 7, shortly before the strike was resolved, KCC leader Paul Carter wrote to French President Nicolas Sarkozy to make him aware of the chaos caused by the strike action and ask for compensation claims by UK businesses to be honoured.

The Foreign Office spokeswoman added: "[The issue of compensation] might have been raised in the wider sense of raising our concerns. I'm not going to be able to be more specific than that."

A month on from Cllr Carter's letter and the Elysee Palace has yet to

issue an official response.

Following the two-day summit the British and French governments issued the joint 38-page communiqué setting out the many areas in which the two countries would co-operate closely over the coming years.

Back in Kent, the county council is facing a fight over its proposals to build a lorry park – which it hopes will spare motorists the disruption caused by Operation Stack – between the villages of Smeeth and Sellindge near junction 10 of the M20.

Action

KCC also hoped to build two further sites; one on the A2/M2 corridor and the other near the M25.

At a public meeting in Sellindge last weekend, chaired by former Tory leader Michael Howard MP, angry residents said they would organise a protest march along the A20.

Campaigner David Plumstead told the meeting the only way to combat the development was to launch a campaign of non-violent direct action.

Roland Lello, a member of the vil-

lage committee, said villagers feared that developers were planning to turn the land lining the M20 into an industrial park.

"It has been extremely difficult to get information about this, but we suspect there is a company buying up land alongside the M20 to turn it into an industrial corridor," he said.

Mr Howard told the meeting that a quick moveable barrier machine, which is being piloted soon, might make the plans for the lorry park unnecessary.

He said: "The mobile barrier will be tested in two months, and it may be that it will solve the problem."

The MP for Folkestone and Hythe said he would work with his political opponents to support the villagers of Sellindge.

He also vowed to ask KCC what other sites had been considered as locations for the lorry park, saying: "I need to be convinced that there are no better sites."

Find news and sport updated online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Homeowner returns to see fireball destruction

THE OWNER of the house destroyed by a plane crash that killed five people has returned to the scene after a holiday.

Edwin Harman, 72, was in Portugal on Sunday afternoon when the Cessna Citation One jet aircraft crashed into his home in Romsey Close, Farnborough, near to Biggin Hill airport.

Ex-touring car driver David Leslie, team owner Richard Lloyd and pilots Mike Roberts and Michael Chapman and passenger Christopher Allerton are believed


to have died in the crash. No-one has been formally identified yet.

Mr Harman said he and his wife Patricia, 68, would normally have been in the house on a Sunday.

He said: "It's terrible. I mean I'd seen pictures but when you actually get here and see how bad it is. It's unrecognisable."


"I've not been allowed too close so I can't see much, but I don't think there's much to see close up anyway, there's nothing left."

"The plane only clipped it, it's the fireball that did the damage."



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ON COURSE: Peter (left) and Keith at the Toy Fair launch of their new game Matchgolf

By **BERNARD GINNS**

bernard.ginns@kosmedia.co.uk

KEITH Harris had gone into hospital for a routine surgical procedure. When he woke up in intensive care, he realised something had gone badly wrong.

Doctors told him he had suffered a cardiac arrest on the operating table and actually 'died' for six minutes. Surgeons saved his life by performing an emergency triple bypass.

As he lay desperately ill in hospital, he thought to himself: "I am in a very dark place. I need to do something to motivate me."

The idea, like all good ones, just popped into his head. He would relaunch a board game he and his best friend Peter Penfold had devised nearly three decades earlier. Harris told Penfold as much when he came to visit him in hospital.

With his background in commercial art and packaging, the twice winner of the UK Innovator of the Year award would take the prototype he had designed with Penfold and they would produce it for the marketplace.

Two years later, with Harris recovered, they launched the game, Matchgolf, at the London Toy Fair in 2006.

The friendship of Penfold, 64, and Harris, 61, has endured for more than 50 years. They both say the game was designed with friends in mind.

They met as boys on a council estate in Carshalton, Surrey, in 1952, before the Queen's Coronation. They played together, pretending to be characters from the Eagle comic, and kept in touch as they grew older.

Both working class, they harboured fierce ambitions to work hard and succeed – and both did, probably well beyond expectations.

After art school, Harris, as noted, had a successful career in the corporate world and was the graphic designer for the original Yorkie bar, a design which remains today, and worked on promotions for Milky Bar, Trebor and Cadbury's Dairy Milk.

In 1972, he moved to Hollingbourne, near Leeds Castle, and worked for Bowater in Gillingham before setting up a packaging company, Insight Cartons, with some colleagues. The firm was very successful and was sold in 1995 for millions of pounds.

Penfold, on the other hand, entered the Foreign Office as a junior clerk and moved up the ranks to become a top diplomat.

He was posted to various hot spots in the world, later becoming Governor of the British Virgin Islands and, famously, British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone in the 1990s during the rebel war.

He was awarded an MBE in 1986 and decorated with the CMG – a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George, or Call Me God in Whitehall parlance – in 1996.

Penfold is also chairman of the UK charity that supports the Milton Margai School for the Blind in Sierra Leone. The choir toured the UK last year and performed at Canterbury Cathedral, in a concert organised

A friendship that's lasted more than 50 years has seen Keith Harris and Peter Penfold launch a board game originally devised three decades ago...

with Kent on Sunday newspaper.

Back at the end of the 1970s, Penfold was based at the British High Commission in Trinidad. One of his duties was to edit a magazine promoting British trade. He was sent a press release for publication from Waddingtons, the board game manufacturers, asking readers for ideas for a follow-up to Monopoly.

This got him thinking, and he sketched out some ideas for a game based on golf. He arrived at a rough set of rules. He sent these to his friend in Kent and said "Here you are, work out the rest".

And so the game was born. Harris worked on

'It's a game to get the family together and an antidote to kids sitting playing those computer games'

the prototype and sent it back to Penfold.

He said: "Peter hawked the game throughout the world on all his postings and played it with all his colleagues. Everyone thought it was a brilliant game. Everyone said you really ought to produce this."

According to the pair, the game is simple to play and depends, like real golf, on a mixture of skill and good luck.

Penfold, who lives with his wife in Oxfordshire, said: "I chose golf because of its international appeal and devised the game incorporating nine holes."

"Keith knows nothing about golf and I barely play it, but we have found that the game has been popular with both avid golfers and people who know nothing about the game."

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Boyhood pals' drive delivers new golf game



OLD MATES: Peter and Keith, who met in 1952, were both Scouts

"We promote it as a game to get family and friends together and as an antidote to kids sitting all hours in front of a computer screen playing those computer games."

During those dark days in hospital, Harris decided to take up the project again. He said: "It took us nearly two years to get it to the stage where we could show it at the Toy Fair. I did the business plan. Peter knew the goals, but he had no business acumen. He had spent his professional career on diplomacy and I had been in cutting-edge business. We both complement each other in our skills."

They had the game produced in China and found an agent in the UK. It now retails for £24.99. So far, they have sold nearly 1,000 sets.

Harris, who is married, continued: "You need to play the game at least twice. The first time, you're feeling your way. The second time you start playing."

"You are playing against your-

self all the time, but are watching what other people are doing – just like real golf. We believe Matchgolf is for the whole family."

On their website, they say: "Matchgolf is a game that brings friends together – something we have been for the past 50 years!"

Regarding their careers, Harris said: "One of the reasons why we were both high achievers is that we grew up in an environment where money was very, very tight. People had to work bloody hard to get what they got."

"Everything you got you worked for yourself. That gave us both the incentive and drive to go in the directions we both went in."

"We have had lots of banter. There is a love between us. We have had this wonderful relationship over 50 years. It's still as fresh as it was then. That's a good thing to say about two kids who played together on the same street."

• **For more information on the game, visit www.matchgolf.co.uk.**

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Try some group activities like swimming, or fun sports like tennis or badminton. Of course, you don't actually have to be together all the time. It's enough just to make going to the gym or leisure centre a regular family outing. When you're there, you can all split off and do your own thing. That way, parents can have a workout or a sauna while the kids enjoy a supervised class or activity.

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happier than those who don't. Physical activity helps reduce stress levels, boost self-confidence and keep kids well-adjusted at home, at school and in social circles. And studies show that kids who develop the healthy habit of exercising while they are young are more likely to stay physically active throughout their lifetime.



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Here are five top tips to get the most out of keeping fit as a family.

- Join a gym or leisure centre that offers plenty of different activities to suit everyone in your family. Look out for ones with special family membership deals.
- Drink water before beginning exercise and continue to drink in between activities and at the end of the session. For younger kids, the recommended amount is 100-200ml water per 20-30 minutes of exercise and 200-350ml for older kids.
- Mix things up every once in a while. Avoid getting bored doing the same things over and over by trying new classes or activities together.
- Kids can meet new friends and learn new lifeskills (such as teamwork or even leadership) by enrolling in group activity classes.
- Relax and unwind together. Spend some time as a family after you've exercised. Talk about what each of you achieved and enjoyed. Reward yourselves with a treat or a meal for doing well.



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Scream team up with veteran star

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PRIMAL Scream are to support Canadian singer-songwriter Neil Young when he plays at a festival in Kent.

The veteran rockers, who have had hits including *Loaded* and *Movin' On Up*, will be performing before Young at the Hop Farm in Paddock Wood in July.

The venue has already attracted major stars like Elton John, who was supported by the Scissor Sisters.

Toronto-born Young, 62, is well known for putting on small acoustic shows, but a spokesman said his Kent appearance will be a fully amplified rock spectacular.

The man who brought him to the county is Vince Power, who has been instrumental in the success of Reading, Leeds, Homelands, and Creamfields festivals.

His Mean Fiddler company was also behind venues such as the Astoria, The Forum and Jazz Café – plus he brought the Sex Pistols out of retirement.

He later sold Fiddler to another major entertainment company "for a lot of money", according to his spokesman. Some reports said the figure was as much as £6 million.

Power said the Hop Farm festival is a welcome return to the marketplace for him and his company Vince Power Music Group. He wants it to become the most musically focused event of its kind in the UK – totally unbranded, free of registration and without any VIP areas.

Mr Power said he was delighted to have persuaded Primal Scream to play. "With an already first-class act headlining this year's festival, I am thrilled that we have also secured one of the UK's most talented bands," he said.

"This great day will put the music lover at the centre of the event itself and will see a renaissance in the festival-going experience."

Young is often referred to as the Godfather of Grunge, considerably pre-dating American bands like Nirvana. He is famous for classic songs like *Heart of Gold*, *Harvest Moon*, *Cinnamon Girl*, and *Rockin' in the Free World*.

Tickets for the July 6 show are on sale through www.seetickets.com or 0871 2200 260, priced at £49.50. Also, visit www.kentnews.co.uk for updates.



ROCK ON: Bobby Gillespie (left) and his band Primal Scream will be the support act when Neil Young (above) plays the Hop Farm

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Ferry celebration

CROSS-Channel ferry operator SeaFrance has celebrated the 10,000th crossing of its newest ship.

The Berlioz, which came into service in April, 2005, and operates on the Dover-Calais route, completed the landmark crossing on March 28.

To mark the event, the company held a raffle for all passengers on the crossing.

The winners were Wenja and Paul Bristow, from London, who were on their way to Switzerland for a family holiday with their two children.

They received a bottle of champagne from the ship's captain and a voucher for a free crossing and three-course meal on board the company's soon-to-be-launched ferry, the Moliere.



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Brave soldier who saved comrades despite rocket fire and shrapnel wounds

By **LAURA HOLME**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A FORMER Kent schoolboy has been recognised for bravery while serving with the Army in Iraq.

Comrades thought Trooper Adam Simler, 21, was dead after a roadside bomb exploded next to a Warrior armoured vehicle he was travelling in.

He regained consciousness, however, and without thought to his own injuries or enemy fire went to the aid of two badly hurt colleagues.

As small arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars continued to rain down on the area Tpr Simler of 1 Troop, D Squadron of the Kings Royal Hussars, cleaned and dressed his colleagues' shrapnel wounds.

His heroism under enemy fire was commended at a recent ceremony held at Aliwal Barracks, Tidworth, Hants, when he was presented with a certificate and a pin to attach to his Iraq medal.

"He required no time to come to terms with what had happened to him; instead with no thought for his own condition, he continued to perform his duties as a team medic to the highest standards, thereby allowing the vehicle commander to concentrate on the enemy and extraction," said his citation.



HEROISM UNDER FIRE: Tpr Adam Simler

"Tpr Simler reacted boldly, calmly and professionally. His quick actions and superb medical response undoubtedly reduced the trauma suffered by his injured colleagues. He used all his professional training and youthful charm to calm his friends.

"Tpr Simler knew he had suffered concussion and yet still fought through the frictions of the night to help his fellow soldiers; this

inspired all those around him."

The bomb blast happened on July 6 last year while his troop was engaged in route clearance and security.

Before the roadside bomb exploded the troop had come under enemy fire and at one point, Tpr Simler volunteered to stand up, with his head out of the Warrior hatch, to help identify and engage targets.

Tpr Simler, who has been in the Army for around three years, was evacuated to hospital where he spent 48 hours recovering. However, he did not suffer any lasting injuries. He said he was only doing his job.

"You don't really think about it at the time, we are trained to deal with these hostile situations," he said.

"I feel very proud to have received the recognition but I didn't think I had done anything particularly special. I know any member of the team would have done the same."

His mother, Wendy Kolari, 40, of Park Wood, Maidstone said: "He does not say much about it, but I am very, very proud of him."

"When they got him back to the hospital after the blast he could not hear properly and he was confused about where he was. It was a horrible phone call. Thank God he came back."

Tpr Simler attended the Valley Park Community School in Maidstone.

Find more news and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk



Since the introduction of safety cameras in Kent and Medway, the number of people killed or seriously injured at camera sites has been reduced by 58%

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MUCH MISSED:
Ollie Nicholls

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

Tributes to pianist killed in accident

run by his father Martin Nicholls, who is vocalist with the Martin Nicholls Jazz Trio. Mr Nicholls junior was a regular sight at the Grey Lady pub in the Pantiles, where he helped organise a live music night.

He had played with a number of well known musicians, including Bert Jansch, Clare Teal, Herbie Flowers, Jacqui Dankworth and Tim van Eyken, as well as touring the world for seven years with world music group Incantation.

The family said Mr Nicholls was due to release his first solo album in the summer.

His other passion was to write satirical observations in a comic strip called Hoss and he was working towards getting this work published.

He was also a keen long-distance runner and footballer and played in a six-a-side team called Grey Lady Ghosts.

A number of tributes have also been posted to Mr Nicholls on his Myspace web page, www.myspace.com/ollienicholls, where it is also possible to listen to some of his music.

Friend Chris Pope described Mr Nicholls as "a great friend and a wonderful musician/singer-songwriter".

He said: "I shall treasure the memories of our last evening out forever and am glad the last memory I have of you is of you smiling and laughing.

"I can't believe you're not here anymore – and the world will be a poorer, duller and less enjoyable place because of that. There is an Ollie-shaped hole in a great many friends' lives – you will be missed but not forgotten and your music will live on."

An inquest into Mr Nicholls' death has been opened and adjourned.

His funeral takes place on Friday, April 11 at St Peter's church in Fordcombe at 4.30pm.

A MAN found dead after apparently being hit by a car has been identified as a musician who was due to release his debut album this summer.

Ollie Nicholls, 41, was discovered in the early hours of Sunday morning in Mount Ephraim in Tunbridge Wells.

In a statement released through the police, his family described his death as a "tragic accident".

Police have arrested and bailed two people in connection with the incident.

The statement said: "Over the years he had become well-known and respected musician, singer, composer and sound engineer.

"With his father, also a professional musician, he established a recording studio at the family home in Fordcombe used by many top recording artists and composers.

"Ollie's atmospheric piano style and thought-provoking lyrics had led to him establishing a healthy local following."

Mr Nicholls was the sound engineer at Doz Recording Studios in Farncombe, which is

Appeal after arcade blaze

POLICE investigating an arson attack at an amusement arcade in Margate are appealing for information.

Speculation has been rife in the town that Friday's attack was linked to the fatal shooting of businessman David O'Leary outside his home last month.

But police told KOS Media: "We are not linking the arson to Mr O'Leary's case at this time." Detectives say two men walked into the back

of the Tivoli venue on March 28, poured petrol around and set light to it.

There were at least 10 members of the public inside. No-one was hurt.

The two men were seen to get into a dark blue D-registered Volvo estate in Belgrave Road. This was later found burning in Grosvenor Place.

They are both, tall and of medium build. They wore cream-coloured tops and baseball caps.

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April pothole blitz

April is set to be a good month for motorists as Kent Highway Services pulls out all the stops to 'blitz' the potholes on our roads.

Last year's wet summer followed by a wet winter has meant a substantial increase in the number of potholes, so we're carrying out an intensive campaign to tackle the problem.

Throughout April we're moving resources and increasing the number of crews, to repair as many potholes as possible, in response to feedback from you saying that this is a priority issue.

However, we can't repair potholes if we don't know where they are, and that's why we're asking for your help. If you see a pothole, please tell us about it.

There are three ways to report it: visit us at www.kent.gov.uk/highways email us at kent.highwayservices@kent.gov.uk or call us on 08458 247 800.

We won't stop once April is over, we check the state of roads regularly throughout the year, and constantly try to improve the way we plan repairs to make the best use of our crews. We've also recently invested in new



technology to make pothole repairs quicker and more efficient.

In the past, we have temporarily filled small potholes with a cold bituminous material to make the highway safe, until our specialist team can carry out a permanent repair with hot bituminous material.

However, we've just completed trials on a new material that is a cold, water activated substance that gives the same durability and skid resistance of a permanent repair, so only one visit is necessary to fix the problem.

We're also using a fleet of Jetpatcher vehicles that can repair up to 15 times more potholes and broken road edges than traditional methods.

The Jetpatchers use high pressure jets to clean the pothole, before filling them with asphalt. Because this can mean dust and debris flying around, these vehicles are used on rural roads and lanes rather than in urban areas.

Please help us to make everyone's journey smoother by reporting potholes.

See www.KentTV.com for up-to-date travel information

Driving towards an even better public service

Kent Highway Services has been recognised for its improved delivery of services, by the people who really matter: you.

We are responsible for over 5,000 miles of roads, 4,000 miles of pavements and over 100,000 street lights. In addition to that, the contact centre deals with an average of 15,000 calls a month about highways issues, so it's no small task to keep the network running smoothly.

We're always looking for ways to improve the service that we deliver and the good news is that a recent KHS resident survey has shown an increase in levels of public satisfaction.

The progress we've made is measured through something called 'Net-satisfaction', which looks at the percentage of people who are satisfied with the service, against those who are dissatisfied and consequently gives us a true reflection of the service.



1,200 residents across Kent were questioned about the condition of roads, pavements and streetlights within the county. The survey showed that the increase in satisfaction levels in 2007 was much greater than in 2006.

That tells us that we're improving the way we deliver the service and improving the way that we tell you about what we're doing. But our efforts don't stop there; we know that there is still more to do and will continue looking for ways to improve.

If you want to give us any feedback, or want more information, you can contact us on 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Why cameras really are all about safety

As every driver knows, failure to drive within the speed limit at camera safety sites will cost you a £60 fine, three points on your licence or even the loss of your licence altogether.

We know that some drivers may think safety cameras are just a way to make money but this isn't the case. Safety cameras are, and always have been, there to reduce casualties on our busy roads.

To prove this, Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership are running a campaign to highlight their website service that offers advance knowledge of camera sites. Visit www.kmscp.org to find out where the cameras are, so you have a chance to slow down, and avoid the £60 fine plus three points on your licence.

The website can also tell you how safety cameras work, the criteria for installing them and even how many tickets have been issued to the motoring public. You can also find out the speed limit the cameras enforce, which is useful to check before driving on unfamiliar roads.

In addition, the website lists the type of camera being used and the number of casualty figures prior to installation, so you can see exactly why the camera was needed in the first place.

Since the Partnership formed in July 2002 there has been a 58% reduction in those killed or seriously injured at safety camera sites. Safety has always been a key issue for Kent Highway Services, and we're supporting this campaign in an effort to change driver behaviour and prevent more crashes on our roads.

For more information about road safety, you can contact us on 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



Have you seen a pothole?

Please call Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800

Travel Update

Below are roadworks and events that may cause some disruptions. Please remember that these are planned works and other emergency works may be required.

Maidstone	Start current	Finish 25.4.08	Road Lower Street, Leeds	Reason Temporary traffic lights - telecoms works
Thanet	Start current	Finish 3.8.08	Road A254 Ramsgate Rd, Margate	Reason Temporary traffic lights - carriageway works
Swale	Start current	Finish 5.9.08	Road Whitstable Road, Faversham	Reason Temporary traffic lights - carriageway works
Dartford	Start 7.4.08	Finish 14.4.08	Road Church Hill Road, Wilmington	Reason Temporary road closure - new gas mains
Sevenoaks	Start 7.4.08	Finish 14.4.08	Road Station Road, Shoreham	Reason Temporary traffic lights - telecoms works
Canturbury	Start 11.4.08	Finish 14.4.08	Road North Lane, Canterbury	Reason Temporary traffic lights - new gas mains

For details of other roadworks in Kent please visit www.kent.gov.uk/travel



For more information, please call 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Ministers 'in denial'

Major immigration report slams Labour

LITTLE or no positive economic benefit has come from mass immigration, an influential parliamentary committee reported this week.

The findings of the Lords economic affairs committee ripped apart claims by Government ministers that migrants add £6billion a year to the economy and led to a furious political row.

The committee of peers found that ministers had overstated the economic benefits of migration and urged the Government to limit the number of workers entering from outside the European Union.

In some cases, immigration had caused the income of some low-paid workers to fall, said the committee, which also warned that UK workers were losing out on vital training.

The 82-page report is regarded as the most comprehensive study of immigration to date. The cross-party committee includes two former Chancellors of the Exchequer and a former Governor of the Bank of England.

Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the committee, said: "The argument put forward by the Government that large-scale net immigration brings significant economic benefits for the UK is unconvincing. We have found no evidence to support their position."

Lord Layard, a Labour member of the committee, said there was "no historical precedent" for immigration on the scale of the latest official projection of 190,000. He added: "There is no government policy on the level of net migration for the future, and there should be."

Concerns were raised that immigration at this level would force up house prices by 10 per cent - making it harder for first-time buyers.

By **PETER BOYES**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

The committee said employers had the "loudest voice" in favour of immigration and warned that the ease of recruiting overseas had led to less training for UK workers.

Neil Carberry, head of employment of employers' organisation, the CBI, said: "In the global economy, businesses need a flexible immigration system that allows them to source the skills they need when appropriate UK-born staff cannot be found."

Backlash

Labour market economists warned of a backlash that could cause fewer skilled migrants to enter the UK, with low-skilled migrants continuing to arrive.

Sir Andrew Green, chairman of Migrationwatch UK, said the findings "struck a devastating blow against years of blatant propaganda by the Government".

He accused the Government of being "in denial" over serious strains on society caused by mass immigration.

Damian Green, the MP for Ashford and the Conservative spokesman on immigration, told KOS Media: "This distinguished cross-party committee has completely demolished the remaining shreds of the Government's credibility on immigration."

"They say the Government's economic arguments for the scale of immigration they have allowed is 'preposterous', and they are right to do so."

"We are delighted they say there should be an explicit target range for immigration

through controls on non-EU applicants.

"This is a policy that I have been arguing for, for years and which the Government has consistently rejected."

"We benefit from some immigration, but not immigration at any level, and the sooner the Government recognises this the better."

Liam Byrne, the Home Office minister responsible for immigration, said he welcomed the report's contribution to the Government's "huge immigration shake-up".

He added: "We are already acting on practically every single recommendation. It proves we were right to set up the independent Migration Advisory Committee to tell us which workers our new Australian-style points system should keep out or let in."

"We're glad to see the committee welcome the system as well as our ban on low-skilled workers from outside Europe."

Trust defends bonus rewards

THE East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust has defended its decision to give all full-time staff a £250 bonus.

The trust's chief executive Stuart Bain said the bonus was a reward for staff who have worked "harder and smarter" to improve efficiency over the last year.

The trust, which has a £7.5 million surplus in its budget, runs the William Harvey, Kent and Canterbury, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Royal Victoria and Buckland hospitals.

Mr Bain said: "We found different ways of organising services to ensure people are seen much quicker than they used to be."

"Over 90 per cent of people are now treated within 18 weeks of being referred to us by their GP."

He said the trust had saved £20m over the course of the last year and had been allowed to retain £7.5m of it. Of this amount, £6m is to be reinvested in services and £1.5m is to pay the bonuses.

The Shepway Liberal Democrats said the money should have been used to pay for more nurses.



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Man stabbed in stomach

A MAN who was stabbed in the stomach is lucky to be alive, said police.

The man, 29, needed surgery to repair an internal organ following the attack in Northumberland Heath, Bexley, early last Saturday morning. He remains in hospital.

He and two friends, aged 31 and 32, had left the Belmont Road Snooker Club and were walking along Barnehurst Junction when a dark car pulled up alongside.

Words were exchanged between men in the car and the men on the street. Police said the occupants

got out and attacked the men, leaving them all with facial injuries and bruising – and one with a stab wound.

Det Sgt Graham Scott said: "This incident could have been far worse and the main victim was lucky not to have lost his life following the attack."

"We are keen to hear from anyone who may have seen or heard anything or has any information that may lead to the identity of the attackers."

The attackers are all white and aged between 20-23.

Support growing for 'expensive' estuary island airport plans

By **PHIL REILLY**

phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk



SENIOR: Nick Raynsford MP

A SENIOR Labour MP has added his voice to those calling for a new airport to be built on an artificial island in the Thames Estuary.

Nick Raynsford, MP for Greenwich and Woolwich, said expanding Heathrow was the wrong way to increase the capital's airport capacity and insisted the Thames Estuary plan is more practical and eco-friendly.

His call comes after Boris Johnson, the Tory candidate for Mayor of London, said in February the Government should look again at the proposals and warned that Heathrow could not take further expansion.

Mr Raynsford, a former local government minister, said a new airport would aid the regeneration of the Thames Gateway area and provide easy access to Ebbsfleet International Station.

He said: "A further benefit would be the scope to provide far better public transport links to the new airport,

publication of a white paper on the future of UK aviation in 2003, in which it ruled out an airport in the Thames Estuary.

It said the Government's preferred strategy was to build new runways at Heathrow and Stansted.

Kent County Council leader Paul Carter has previously spoken out against the Thames Estuary plans.

Responding to Mr Johnson's comments in February, he wrote in his online blog: "Alongside all the very good reasons why we were opposed to an airport at Cliffe in the first place, from an engineering point of view Boris' solution is highly complex and extremely expensive."

"We already have an airport in Kent that is under-utilised – Manston."

Medway council leader Rodney Chambers has also expressed his opposition to the plan in the past, as has the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The RSPB claimed the Thames Estuary, home to the Cliffe Pools nature reserve, was an irreplaceable wild bird site.

thereby easing the appalling traffic congestion that is part and parcel of the Heathrow experience and which, incidentally, is a huge contributor to air quality problems in the areas surrounding the airport."

He also argued that siting an airport on reclaimed land in the estuary would avoid the "noise nuisance" of night flights over residential areas.

A spokeswoman for the Department for Transport said its position had not changed since the

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A HEADTEACHER has described the people who caused £1,000 worth of damage to a swimming pool as "mindless vandals". The offenders caused the damage at Halling Primary School in Medway after climbing over a fence. They broke a panel in the wall of the pool. The pool had not yet been reopened after being refurbished two years ago. Headteacher Ian Turner said he hoped the police would catch those responsible. Work to repair the damage will begin soon.

Up close and personal with the Rolling Stones show




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IT was a homecoming of sorts for Mick Jagger and Keith Richards this week as the new Rolling Stones film was premiered in Kent.

Ashford's Cineworld was among 100 cinemas nationwide to simultaneously show Shine A Light, the new concert and documentary by Oscar-winning director Martin Scorsese.

Courtesy of a satellite transmission, thousands of Stones fans across the country were able to watch the red carpet action from the premiere in London as it happened.

In the home county of Jagger and Richards, several hundred fans attended and clapped and cheered during the two-and-a-half hour event.

Critics are regarding the movie as a triumph. As a performance, it gives audiences a much closer and personal view of the band than they would otherwise get at stadium shows.

And it sketches an intimate portrait of a group of personalities who have been together for a long time, using archive footage showing an almost impossibly young Jagger, Richards and Charlie Watts at the start of their incredible career.

Scorsese's loving picture also reminds us of how much the world has changed since the early 1960s, when drug-taking musicians had enough influence to become a cause of concern to the Establishment.

But above all it is a film about their music, being recorded over two days at the Beacon Theatre in New York in 2006. It features surprising cameo performances from Christina Aguilera, Jack White of The White Stripes and Buddy Guy.

There has been a flood of publicity ahead of the film's general release later this month, with Jagger and Richards giving interviews to promote the film.

In characteristically outspoken terms, Richards used the opportunity to attack the Government for banning one of his favourite things – smoking.

He told The Sun newspaper: "It's a drag because you've got to freeze your balls off to light a cigarette, you've got to go outside.

"It's draconian – socially, politically correct bull****. That's what it is. They'll get over it.

"It's like prohibition, they tried to stop booze once. Ha, look what happened. It ruined America."

Many pubs in Kent have been hit hard by the smoking ban, which came into force last July.

Richards, who went to Wilmington Grammar School, also revealed his penchant for smoking cannabis.

"I smoke my head off. I smoke weed all the damn time. There, you've got it. That's all I take, that's all I do. But I do smoke and I've got some really good hash."

Although widely used, cannabis is illegal in Great Britain. Richards was formerly a heroin addict and was once arrested in Canada with 22 grams of the class A drug.

The musician is working on his life story at the moment. Unsurprisingly, he said he has been struggling to remember everything.

He said: "I can't even remember yesterday. I'm trying to put together an autobiography and it's coming along. You have to drag things out of your memory. Some of it you don't even want to remember and others you've totally

By **PETER BOYES**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

forgotten, so you end up trying to put your life together again.

"And since I don't keep a diary it's a bit difficult. It's a bit like life really. Some of it's a little bit painful and some of it you go, 'Yeah, I forgot about that, or that was great'. But it's reviewing yourself and that's not my habit."

Energetic

On the new film, Richards was initially reluctant: "When they first said they wanted to shoot another movie of the Stones on stage I said forget about it. How many have we done? But then they said 'by Martin Scorsese' and of course the whole thing changed because this man makes movies."

Scorsese is a huge Rolling Stones fan and at least three of his films – Goodfellas, Casino and The Departed – include Gimme Shelter on their soundtracks. Mick Jagger has joked that Shine A Light is the first Scorsese film not to feature the 1969 song.

Richards said: "Once Martin was involved with it I just wanted him to do whatever it is he does. I wanted to stay out of the way and give him what he wanted, which was a Stones show."

Meanwhile, Jagger spoke about the health regime that allows him to put on energetic, two-hour shows and go on long world tours.

"It's kind when people say how fit I look, but there is no secret, I'm afraid. You have to do some work when you go over 30. Then you have to go to the gym."

"So I do some training, but not much. No marathons. If you do that the next day you don't want to do too much running about."

"I enjoy life too. When this film was finished we stayed in and partied. I didn't go to bed until five o'clock. I raided the minibar."

"I try not to think about when I can't do this anymore. I say, 'don't look at the clouds of tomorrow through the sunshine of today'."

Jagger and Richards both celebrate their 65th birthdays this year, in July and December respectively.



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DIRTY: Christina Aguilera and Mick Jagger

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From paper to bronze, a journey in art

By **RACHEL MCATHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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ART fans have a rare opportunity to view some preparative works by the sculptor, Sir Henry Moore, in a new exhibition.

Moore, who died in 1986, was famed for his abstract sculptures and artistic focus on the human figure.

The exhibition, at the Mascalls Gallery in Paddock Wood, will include a large selection of his drawings, prints and maquettes.

It allows visitors to view the development of his ideas, from the initial sketch through to the forms from which he built his sculptures.

The exhibition runs from April 21 to May 31, on the site of Mascalls School.

Curator of the exhibition, Nathaniel Hepburn, is thrilled that the work will be on show in Kent.

He said: "This collection was given by Sir Henry Moore to the nation and Mascalls Gallery's partnership with the British Council brings it right to our doorstep."

A selection of prints will be on show, covering Moore's most famous themes, including interpretations of Reclining Figures

and studies for the famous Mother and Child sculptures.

Also included in the exhibition are drawings of the London Underground during World War Two and a crayon, watercolour and ink Mother and Child drawing.

Moore, who was born in Yorkshire in 1898, was highly influenced by the work of Pablo Picasso.

In the 1930s, he began experimenting with abstract art, often creating simplified, round wooden pieces, featuring numerous indentations and holes.

Despite facing a lot of criticism over his early work, he was awarded the International Prize for Sculpture in 1948.

It was later on, in the 1950s, when he began working with new materials including marble and bronze.

The gallery is open six days of the week for public visits and offers free admission.



WORKS OF ART: Moore's Mother And A Child On A Sofa (top) and Brown Tube Shelter



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Alcohol control zone to deal with drunks

By **JAMES ALEXANDRE**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN ALCOHOL control zone is being piloted in Sittingbourne town centre in a bid to reduce antisocial behaviour.

Neighbouring Medway council has imposed a blanket ban on drinking in Chatham and Rochester high streets.

But the new scheme in Sittingbourne leaves it up to police, wardens and community support officers to confiscate alcohol from those behaving irresponsibly.

The initiative has the support of councillors and local landlords, and if successful could be extended across the rest of Swale.

Cllr John Wright, who says the idea was raised by a resident, insists the new control zone will reduce loutish behaviour and will not unfairly discriminate against law-abiding citizens.

He said: "It won't target someone who, for example, is feeling the heat and just drinking a can of beer outside and who isn't drunk."

Instead the new zone will give police the power to take alcohol away from groups hanging around on street corners or those who decide to have an "impromptu party" outside, which can be threatening to passers-by.

Existing evidence suggests controlled zones help to reduce antisocial behaviour, as has already been witnessed in Medway, and helps stop underage drinking.



ON THE TILES: Officials hope the street-drinking ban will stop irresponsible behaviour

Licensees who have tables and chairs laid out in the exclusion area would be free to deal with their own patrons as usual in the event of any problems.

Michelle Parnell, assistant manager at the Vineyard in West Street, is fully in favour of the proposal.

She said: "It makes it easier for us to manage, so that customers don't wander off outside with a pint in their hand."

"Also we tend to get quite a few people who come in here holding a bottle of Stella, thinking they're still one of the lads, so if it means

them not getting drunk before they enter then all the better."

Sittingbourne town centre PC Jason Hedges said: "This is not about spoiling people's fun but addressing residents' concerns about individuals drinking in public places."

"By introducing a controlled zone police will be able to act quickly to prevent antisocial behaviour, which is often alcohol fuelled, getting out of hand."

The current exclusion zone covers the whole of Sittingbourne town centre, from Albany Recreation ground to the railway station.

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Grisly rabbit carcass left hanging from campus tree branch

By **GARETH ARNOLD**

gareth.arnold@kosmedia.co.uk

POLICE have launched an investigation after the bizarre discovery of a mutilated rabbit hanging from a tree adorned with red ribbons at the University of Kent.

Shocked students were left stunned when they spotted the grisly spectacle dangling from a tree close to the university's campus.

In a strange twist, just hours after it was first spotted, the rabbit had been removed and somebody chalked an outline of the animal at the foot of the tree.

Now police are investigating the incident and say they are taking it seriously.

Meanwhile, students have been speculating over who could be behind the incident.

The dead rabbit was hanging from the tree above the footpath that leads down from Tyler Court to St Stephen's Hill.

Drama student Jessie Rawlinson said: "Some of my friends were walking home from class and saw this rabbit hanging from a tree with its insides hanging out. The tree was covered in red ribbons.

"I went down to the tree next morning and the rabbit was gone, with just a chalk outline drawn underneath.

"The ribbons were still tied to the tree

though. It's absolutely horrendous and whoever is responsible should be stopped."

Miss Rawlinson said the story was all around campus, but so far the university authorities have refused to comment.

Psychology students posting on a popular online social networking site have made the observation that various studies have indicated a link between animal cruelty and serial killers.

Psychology student Samantha Leivers said: "Just to make everyone a little more freaked out, most serial murderers start off torturing and killing animals first."

Cruelty

Other students have called for the authorities to take a hard line on instances of animal cruelty, especially if the culprit turns out to be a fellow student.

A spokesman for Canterbury police said: "We have been made aware by local students that a dead rabbit was tied to a tree on the stairs leading up to the university campus, just past Downs Road.

"The incidents happened two weeks ago, but police were not made aware until recently. We would urge anyone with information to contact PCSO Gary Painter on 07772 226195 or call Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. Calls are free and you do not have to give your name."

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www.kentnews.co.uk



BIZARRE MEMORIAL: Ribbons were left in the tree where the rabbit remains were found



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For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to pages **45-46**.



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The pain caused by remarkable lives and loves of Deedes



TRAVEL COMPANIONS: Victoria Combe and Lord Deedes together

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

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WHETHER Lord "Bill" Deedes, the legendary Daily Telegraph journalist, was romantically involved with a woman more than 50 years his junior has been the subject of much speculation.

The friendship between Victoria Combe and the former Cabinet minister was thrust into the spotlight as a result of Stephen Robinson's authorised biography, *The Remarkable Lives of Bill Deedes*.

Deedes, who died aged 94 at his home in Aldington near Ashford last summer, gave his biographer complete access to his diaries and was open about all aspects of his life, Mr Robinson told KOS Media.

Asked whether he now regretted including so much detail about Miss Combe in the book, which was serialised in the *Telegraph*, he said: "I regret any pain it has caused."

"So far as I know it has not caused any pain to Bill's children and grandchildren. But if it has to Victoria and her family then I am truly sorry about that."

Miss Combe met Deedes when he was 80 and she was 27. They travelled widely together visiting places including Sudan, Pakistan, Sarajevo and Mozambique.

Mr Robinson devotes a chapter to the relationship and pointed out that it was a small part of the book compared to the three chapters he spent on Deedes' time as a soldier.

"I am not complaining about [the coverage of the relationship]. But what happens when books are serialised is that certain parts are focused on, in particular human interest."

"[In] the presentation of the Victoria chapter I approved all the words but I was still quite shocked because it does present quite a revisionist view of Bill."

Certainly, extracts from the book, taken out of context, have caused quite a stir such as: "They lingered briefly on the balcony, staring through the darkness at the Indian Ocean..." Victoria later retired to her own 'truly dreadful' room, while Bill bedded down in his suite, no doubt contemplating what might have been, as 'it comes home to me how very attractive she is'.

Mr Robinson said that Deedes did not want the relationship covered up, stating that the journalist was proud of his friendship with Miss Combe and that it was an important part of his later life.

"I was slightly hurt when the reporting about the book suggests there is innuendo [about their relationship]."

"It was an intense friendship but there was never a physical relationship – the book does not imply there was."

"That does not mean the friendship did not cause hurt for Bill's family and wife because it most emphatically did."

"Bill was intensely drawn to her, possibly he was sort of in love with her in a way, they were real soulmates," he said.

Resentment

Deedes seemed to find a connection and closeness with Miss Combe that he never shared with his wife Hilary, said the writer. As the book claims, Miss Combe awakened a "powerful yearning" in Deedes, although it was never acted upon.

Deedes' wife was a North Country woman, said Mr Robinson, and "she thought they would go back there when he retired but Bill was off travelling the world with among others Victoria, which caused upset."

He said the children's resentment over the relationship was not because they thought anything physical was going on. "I think Jeremy and the other children resented Victoria because he showered her with the affection that had been withheld from them."

Miss Combe, in an article for *The Sunday Times*, said: "I told him [Robinson] that there had never been a moment in 13 years I had known and worked with Bill when he had given me so much as a longing look, let alone made a pass. He was my dear friend and mentor, nothing else."

Mr Robinson said Deedes was terrified of becoming an "old bore" and relied on young journalists to keep in touch. He said it was crucial for Deedes to mentor burgeoning reporters.

The only condition he imposed on his biographer was that the book was published after his death. Mr Robinson recorded how Deedes "mangling the famous motto of the Order of the Garter: Honi soit qui mal y pense – Shame upon him who thinks evil of it" left a prophetic message from beyond the grave.



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TUC backs coal power proposal

By **PHIL REILLY**

phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

TRADE unions and employers have called on the Government to approve plans for a controversial coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth.

The Trades Union Congress (TUC), the umbrella group that represents unions across the UK, has published a report advocating a new generation of coal power stations.

The report is the work of the TUC's Clean Coal Task Group, which is made up of unions and employers from the coal and energy industries.

The Government is yet to approve the Kingsnorth plans, which would see the existing power station replaced with the UK's first new coal-fired plant for more than 20 years.

The £1 billion scheme has been proposed by energy firm E.ON UK and would reduce emissions by about 20 per cent.

It is hoped that Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology could be developed to dramatically reduce emissions, but this is not yet ready.

The report argued new stations should be built now in such a way that they can be adapted when CCS technology is available.

Mike Farley, chairman of the Clean Coal Task Group, said new coal power plants should be built now to avoid nearly 60 per cent of the UK's energy coming from gas by 2016.

He said: "If these are built capture-ready

and if CCS is demonstrated in parallel, we will set the right global example to countries which will continue to use much larger quantities of coal for the next century and longer."

Earlier this year, environmental campaigners from Greenpeace accused the Government of conniving with E.ON after they obtained emails between ministers and the company under the Freedom of Information Act.

Greenpeace claims the emails, sent in January, show the German utility giant was dictating terms of approval for the power station and said CCS technology had "no current reference for viability at any scale".

Reservations

But this week the company announced it has entered a Government competition in which the winners get hundreds of millions of pounds to develop the UK's first large-scale CCS project.

It has also proposed that a decision on its planning application for Kingsnorth be put back until later in the year when the Government has completed a consultation into what it will take to make a new power station CCS ready.

The plans to build the new station have met with opposition from Bob Marshall-Andrews, the Labour MP for Medway, who said he had "grave reservations" about the project.

The site is also at the centre of a campaign by members of Camp for Climate Action, which intends to hold a weeklong protest there in early August.

Find more news and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Police sky-high deal

A POLICE helicopter will be patrolling the skies after a deal was struck between the Kent and Essex forces. The deal means Kent will now have

access to Essex Police's helicopter, which will operate for 18 hours a day, seven days a week. The helicopter will be at an event in Maidstone next Monday.



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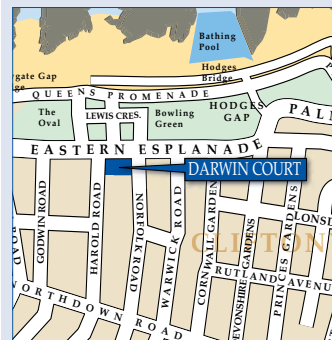
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RESCUE MISSION: The John H Amos being lifted to safety from the River Medway

Historic paddle tug saved at last

By **RACHEL MCATHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT TOOK three days but eventually the last paddle tug in the UK, the John H Amos, has been lifted from Medway's waters.

The former River Tees tug – which worked for 27 years towing vessels and transferring crews – has been resting on the river near the Chatham Historic Dockyard since the end of the Falklands War.

Last week, the John H Amos was hoisted from the slipway by the largest floating crane in Europe, Atlas.

Martin Stevens, who owns the 1931 tug, is relieved to finally see her out of the water.

He said: "At long last we can finally start to restore her, which will be a massive job. It has been difficult to keep and all I could do was save her from the scrapyard and that was not easy."

She is now onboard the pontoon Portal Narvik in Rochester, awaiting higher tides to return to Chatham Docks.

Restoration

Mr Stevens, from Sheldwich near Faversham, said: "Because of the delay, she is on a pontoon at the moment, but we hope to have her returned by the end of the week. Once we get her back, the first thing will be to clean her."

The John H Amos was listed in the Core Collection of the National Register of Historic Vessels in 1999, along with national icons such as the HMS Victory and Cutty Sark.

For many years she was berthed at the Historic Dockyard, but when they acquired the submarine Ocelot, the tug was moved to a new berth where she ultimately sank.

Mr Stevens founded the Medway Maritime Trust in 2001 and is now the chairman.

He said: "I have always known how important she was but once she was recognised by others I founded the trust

so that we could go for funding from the National Lottery."

Quotations for the full restoration have indicated that the cost will be around £6 million. It is hoped the restoration work will be done to original specification.

The traditional skills required are hard to come by in Great Britain so retraining is an important part of the trust's mission.

Mr Stevens views her as an educational tool, which will help show people what many boats of that era were like.

He said: "We are running a scheme to promote the retraining of old skills. Fathers don't teach their sons anymore, so we are trying to ensure that old skills are learnt again."

The John H Amos was used for towing barges to dredgers and the dumping grounds, and was finally withdrawn from service in 1967.

The Atlas crane is owned by marine salvage company GPS.

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DIVORCED, lively mum, 35, GSOH, I enjoy time with my family and friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty, love and romance. Box 435103 TKT Q

EASYGOING female with GSOH, 36, enjoys many things - going out, staying in, seeking a nice, genuine guy for lots of love and laughter. Box 437913 TKT Q

SINGLE 36yr old female, like most things in life, very loving and caring, 5'5", cuddly build, good personality, seeking a gentle, considerate man. Box 431285 TKT Q

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22YR old female, 5'7", green eyes, brunette, cuddly, gives and wants attention, likes going out, staying in, looking for love. Box 89292 TKT

LIVELY female, 25, 5ft 2, brown hair, green eyes, 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy for fun, friendship and more. Box 435855 TKT

SINGLE mum of two, bubbly, bright, 5ft 8, brown hair, green eyes, size 14 and curvy, seeking tall, muscular, outgoing guy for socialising and more. Box 435830 TKT

FUN, flirty female, nearly 30, bored of being single, seeking someone to take me out and show me a good time, petite with dark hair. Box 895349 TKT

LOVE scouse female, 29, 5ft 1, brown hair blue eyes, fantastic SOH, after some fun and laughs, so if that's you let me know. Box 438364 TKT

SINGLE mum, 30, 5ft 2, short brown hair, petite, loves pubs, clubs, eating out, nights in, seeking Mr Right for friendship, maybe more. Box 437895 TKT

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HI! I'm Cheryl, 31, 5ft 3, blonde, size 10, have 2 girls, I like walking, the gym and socialising, seeking a similar male for potential partnership. Box 437744 TKT

SINGLE mum of 2, 31, great SOH, works full time, seeking male with GSOH, fun-loving and romantic, for possible relationship. Box 438412 TKT

TALL, black, pretty female, 31, new to the Chatham area, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male 34-47 for LTR. Box 437778 TKT

UPBEAT girl, 31, bored silly and just looking for friends to go out and have a laugh with, nothing else. Preferably students in the Canterbury. Box 895165 TKT

BLACK female, 32, 5ft 8, likes cooking, reading, going out, WLM to a nice man 34-50, downearth and to be with, to find out more. Box 436595 TKT

LIVELY, attractive female, 32, 5'5", looking to meet that someone special to share life, laughter and love. Box 429124 TKT

CARING, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 394013 TKT

SINGLE mum of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Box 406670 TKT

HONEST, single, outgoing female, 31, 5'11", loves to go out and stay in with good company, dvds etc, WLM similar male, for friendship and more. Box 437816 TKT

32YR old kind, warm female, 5'6", cuddly build, love walking my dog, cosy nights in, evenings out, WLM tall, honest, trustworthy male for friendship. Box 430993 TKT

HI! I'm 33, from Canterbury, non-worker as have heart problems, looking to meet someone who's kind, honest, loving and affectionate for romantic times. Box 436785 TKT

LOVELY single mum, 38, 5ft 4, blonde, slim, loves socialising, good fun and chatty, WLM similar male for fun and laughter, maybe leading to LTR. Box 378989 TKT

CUTE, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983 TKT

KIND, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, hazel puppy-dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, honest guy, non-smoker, friendship first. Box 899694 TKT Q

ATTRACTIVE 39yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 301892 TKT Q

39YR old single mum, slim, long hair, love rock music, concerts, bikes, in need of attention, love and respect. Box 897114 TKT Q

BLACK female, 38, 5ft 2, have children, like nights out and cosy nights in, seeking someone to have a laugh with. Box 435423 TKT

MANDY, 38, lovely brunette, petite, slim, very tactile, bubbly, professional mum, WLM honest, romantic NS man. Box 432639 TKT

KENT female, 39, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no lies, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship, more. Box 152862 TKT

HONEST lady, 40, nice, like walks, cinema, looking for nice man to share quality time together and cuddles. Box 437940 TKT

DECENT 39yr old female, medium build, fair hair, 5'6", likes cinema, eating in/out, having fun, seeks like-minded male, 36-40, for friendship first. Box 739664 TKT

BUBBLY, separated female, 40, slim, love meeting new people and enjoying life, looking for an understanding man for happiness. Box 895246 TKT Q

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HI! I'm a fun-loving woman early 40, 5'1", curvy, enjoy eating out and cooking - walking, looking for man for happiness. Box 894398

41YR old female, separated with 3 children, medium build, dark hair, seeking a male to share life with again who enjoys socialising, cinema, music and holidays. Box 437639 TKT

BUBBLY, 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, WLM a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102 TKT

FUN-LOVING, vivacious woman, 41, 5ft 11, enjoys dining out, walking, cinema, looking for a confident man with GSOH, NS for friendship & maybe more. Box 896889 TKT

42YR old, 5'7", slim, down-to-earth, normal love bowling, cinema, clubs, seeking a male 40-55 for friendship and more. Box 436163 TKT

42YR old outgoing female, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, medium build, enjoys cinema, meals out, seeking a friendly male for nice times. Box 435451 TKT

IM Caroline, 42, single mum, likes having fun, eating out, wine bars, swimming, looking for someone for something meaningful. Box 430952 TKT

MUM of two, 42, 5ft 4, blonde hair, brown eyes, medium build, loves eating out, staying in, holidays, seeking male 37-45 with similar interests to love. Box 438349 TKT

TALL, outgoing lady, 43, large build, newly settled in Kent, needs to spread her wings and meet a nice chap! Let's chat! Box 896908 TKT Q

ATTRACTIVE female, 43, 5ft 3, long black hair, blue eyes, long legs, divorced, 3 teenage children, likes meals, cooking, cosy nights in, weekends away, call me! Box 438274 TKT

FUN-LOVING, affectionate brunette, 43, size 12, NS, separated amicably with 2 lovely kids, enjoys keeping fit. Seeks good-looking, slim fit, romantic male. Box 431478 TKT Q

45YR young female, tall, blonde, a hairdresser, just looking for the right mate so get in touch and let's learn more! Box 437381 TKT

44YR old female, blonde hair, 5ft 5, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there. Box 436810 TKT

PETITE, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling, WLM NS man to share things with. Box 429682 TKT

44YR old female, 5'5", brown hair, slim/medium build, enjoys pubs, clubs, if you are out there, give me a ring! Maidstone. Box 413446 TKT

FEMALE, 46, seeks honest, warm, sincere, intelligent, and good-looking male with no hang-ups about kids for friendship and hoping for more. Box 156956 TKT Q

FRIENDLY, bubbly, fun-loving woman, 45, 5'4", GSOH, enjoys socialising, pubs, meals out, enjoys fun, honest, caring, WLM male for fun and friendship. Box 895928 TKT

CARING, honest 46yr old female, 5'2", eyes of blue, reddish. Likes cinema, GSOH, good conversationalist, looking for special person to share life's ups and downs with. Faversham. Box 409929 TKT

BABY blue-eyed female, 46, long blonde hair, 5ft 3, medium build, not bad looking! like going to clubs, dinners, cinema, music, seeking nice gents for possible relationship. Box 438437 TKT

OUTGOING football coach, 47, great SOH, loving and honest, common-sense but a nice person! 5 children, 7 grandchildren, seeking honest female for companionship and love. Box 43740 TKT

SINCERE female, 57, caring, separating, enjoys nights in/out, reading, walking, various activities, just separated for a friend and the see from there! Box 437420 TKT

LOVING, lively, bubbly, tactile lady, 50, enjoys the good life, holidays and cosy nights in. Im voluptuous & looking for a real man. Box 903550 TKT Q

USEFUL, intelligent, caring female, 62, young looking/caring, like walks, music, cooking, seeking sensitive, caring, uncomplicated male, NS, per-sonal, non-smoker, for friendship first. Box 434345 TKT

HAPPY, friendly retired lady, 70, 5'2", short silver hair, cheerful optimistic nature, likes meeting people, computing, reading, travelling, seeks tall NS, happy male with GSOH. Box 895972 TKT Q

SMART, attractive, bubbly blonde, 71, medium build, NS, own house, GSOH, lives on coast, enjoys most things, WLM smart gentleman for friendship. Box 438147 TKT

CUDDLY, buxom female, 46, blue eyes, very feminine, passionate Scorpio, loves music, animals, read, ing, travel, seeks tall, NS, happy male, looking for a special person to share life's ups and downs with. Box 433152 TKT

CAPRICORN female, 48, 5ft 7, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, caring, animal lover, into DIY, sport, reading, WLM someone in the Maidstone area. Box 43451 TKT

HI! I'm Maggie, a sociable Sagittarian, buxom, 52-year-old brunette, likes music, dancing, eating out, seeking like-minded, buxom female, 40-55, for fun and more. Box 435191 TKT

KIND, loving female, 44, blonde, 5'4", medium/cubby build, likes reading, live music, countryside, walks, seeks sincere, solvent man. Box 895946 TKT

HAPPY, fit, youthful 45yr old single mum, OHAC, very good sense of humour. Likes all the normal social things. Very honest. Seeking sincere, stable, solvent man. Box 895929 TKT

YOUNG-LOOKING, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving, outgoing, NS, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out, staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833 TKT

HI! I'm Sue, 48, 5'2", dark hair/eyes, divorced, hard-working, WLM compatible male, stocky build, for good times, possibly LTR. Box 432992 TKT

SLIM, divorced woman, 49, dark brown shoulder length hair, hazel eyes, 5ft 3, Seeks genuine, thoughtful male, 43-54, slim-medium build, about 5ft 10 or above. Box 897419 TKT

LOVING woman, 49, dark brown hair, GSOH, enjoys watching, countryside, cinema, theatre, pubs, restaurants, music, travel, seeks sincere and loving male between 46-65 for friendship. Box 896888 TKT Q

HELLO, 49yr old female, 5ft 3, blonde, nervous/outgoing, love music, socialising, simple things in life, seeking a male to look after and settle down with. Box 438349 TKT

YOUNG-AT-HEART female, 48, medium build, 5ft 2, dark hair, blue eyes, GSOH, very active, likes clubs and dining out, seeks someone with similar interests. Box 435038 TKT

GENUINE, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights in/out, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55. Dover. Box 434441 TKT

LOVELY female, 49, divorced, 5ft, shoulder-length blonde hair, green eyes, size 16, likes dining out, staying in, walks in the country, seeking LTR with similar male. Box 437729 TKT

NEW to this, I'm a 58yr old woman, and I enjoy walks, theatre, meals out, and WLM genuine man for company. Box 437774 TKT

LOVING, lively, cuddly blonde female, 50, 5'4, loves rock music, walking & films, WLM easygoing male for uncomplicated relationship & good times. Box 894299 TKT

HI! I'm Vette, 50, separated, blonde hair/blue eyes, size 12, 5'2", likes cinema, meals and drinks out, reading, walks, looking for male, 40-60, for relationship. Box 420160 TKT

SPORTY female, 50, Hastings-based, 5'8", blonde/blue, enjoys golf, walking, socialising, eating in/out, WLM fun-loving, kind, sportsy male, 48-60, 5'10", to share life. Box 166829 TKT

NEW to the area, I'm 5ft 50, with blonde hair/blue eyes, 5ft 7, Seeking nice, outgoing guy who likes meals out, travel, nights in, cinema. Box 437028 TKT

LIVELY, understanding female, 51, large build, WLM genuine, loving male, 46-58, for lasting, loving relationship. Faversham. Box 399271 TKT

ATTRACTIVE, homely, caring 55yr old lady, 5'2", slim, blonde hair, GSOH, good conversationalist, looking for special person to share life's ups and downs with. Faversham. Box 409929 TKT

FUN-LOVING, bubbly, tactile lady, 50, enjoys the good life, holidays and cosy nights in. Im voluptuous & looking for a real man. Box 903550 TKT Q

SINCERE female, 57, caring, separating, enjoys nights in/out, reading, walking, various activities, just separated for a friend and the see from there! Box 437420 TKT

LOVING, lively, bubbly, tactile lady, 50, enjoys the good life, holidays and cosy nights in. Im voluptuous & looking for a real man. Box 903550 TKT Q

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SMART, attractive, bubbly blonde, 71, medium build, NS, own house, GSOH, lives on coast, enjoys most things, WLM smart gentleman for friendship. Box 438147 TKT

CUDDLY, buxom female, 46, blue eyes, very feminine, passionate Scorpio, loves music, animals, read, ing, travel, seeks tall, NS, happy male, looking for a special person to share life's ups and downs with. Box 433152 TKT

CAPRICORN female, 48, 5ft 7, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, caring, animal lover, into DIY, sport, reading, WLM someone in the Maidstone area. Box 43451 TKT

HI! I'm Maggie, a sociable Sagittarian, buxom, 52-year-old brunette, likes music, dancing, eating out, seeking like-minded, buxom female, 40-55, for fun and more. Box 435191 TKT

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DIVORCED female, 50s, 5ft 4, own home, great job and friends, likes to keep fit, hobbies include shopping, cooking, dining out, theatre/cinema, holidays, seeking friendship and more. Box 434001 TKT

HI! I'm Jackie, 58, 5ft 6, blue eyes, fun-loving, down-to-earth and considerate, love horses, seeking male 56-65 who loves music and animals to be my soulmate! Box 436328 TKT

HAPPY, contented social lady, 59, NS, living in the country near Hythe, seeks gentleman of similar disposition and means. Box 897822 TKT TKT

CLASSY, intelligent, divorced, attractive lady, 59, slim, active, enjoys travel, walking, holidays, sport, gardening. WLM intelligent gentleman initially for friendship, maybe more. Box 910138 TKT

ACTIVE, attractive, vivid, 60, GSOH, fun-loving, enjoys countryside, animals, theatre, lots more, WLM similar happy chap, to share happy times with! Box 896888 TKT Q

WIDOWED woman, 61, no ties, positive outlook, kind nature with GSOH, like the usual things and would like to find a male counterpart. Box 431210 TKT

BRUNETTE lady, 61, looking for a LTR, friendship first, any age considered. Interests: dancing, walking, socialising, cuddling! Margate. Box 432246 TKT

YOUNG 61 year old, 5ft 3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, very happy-go-lucky, likes dancing, walks, eating in/out. I'm very adaptable, looking for a LTR. Margate. Box 434424 TKT

LOVING male, 33, 6ft, fair hair/blue eyes, slim, I like cinema, theatre, meals out, cosy nights in with a take away, keeping fit. Box 428767 TKT

34YR old young-looking, shy at first male, 5'9", medium build, enjoy life, seeking that special someone to share good moments with. Box 435061 TKT

HELLO girls, I'm 34, a single Dad, blue eyes, cropped hair, 5ft 6, love pubs, TV, film, wine, films and sofas. WLM genuine lady for love. Box 437437 TKT

WLM male, dark eyes, brown hair, WLM a outgoing female to share interests with. Enjoy travel, restaurants, cinema etc. Box 438076 TKT

GARY, 35, a genuine loving male, fun, outgoing and kind, loves movies, museums, holidays, music and more, seeks loving lady for start of something, seeking that special TKT

KIND, loving lady, 36, looking for company and maybe LTR. I love pubs and cinema and cuddles on the sofa and sofas. Box 894736 TKT

SINGLE male, 37, 6ft, medium build, interests include cycling, beach walks, meals, socialising, WLM nice, similar 436959 TKT

WLM male, dark eyes, brown hair, WLM a outgoing female to share interests with. Enjoy travel, restaurants, cinema etc. Box 438076 TKT

SLIM 37yr old male, 6ft, a carpenter, a loving Dad, outgoing, fun-loving, hobbies include, reading, cooking, anything to do with the house, seeking a lady for love. Box 437434 TKT

IM Stuart, 36, 6ft 6, short dark hair, stocky build, good squash, badminton, playing pool, likes going out, seeking a fun-loving, nice lady for loyalty and love. Box 437106 TKT

HONEST, kind, caring male, 37, blond, 6ft, enjoys walks, cinema, nights in/out, family life, WLM like a genuine female. Sarah, please call again, leave contact details! Box 430440 TKT Q

JASON, 38, 5ft 8, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cycling, seeks genuine female for friendship and good times. Box 433326 TKT

HI! I'm 38, 5'6", medium-stocky build, 2 children, love bike-rides, swimming, walks, seeks female partner for fun, friendship, and to start new life with! Box 436391 TKT

MARK, 38, quite laid-back, easygoing, seeking a lady to enjoy cinema, eating out, drinks and days out with, hopefully much more. Box 437866 TKT

MALE, 38, likes cinema, reading, football, eating out and quiet nights in. Seeks female for friendship and more. Box 894049 TKT

DOWN-TO-EARTH, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company and conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917 TKT TKT

INDEPENDENT, easygoing guy, 37, 5ft 8, hazel eyes, no ties, GSOH, likes going out, walking, playing pool, eating out, swimming, bowling, motorbikes, seeking caring girl. Box 429363 TKT

ROMANTIC male, 38, 6ft, blue eyes, medium/muscular build, enjoys socialising, cosy nights in, music, looking for a loving, fun-filled female for happiness. Chatham. Box 435795 TKT

IM 39, slim, 5ft 10, I love walking the dogs, sports, socialising with friends, cinemas, pubs, clubs, live music, travel, seeking NS female 30-45 with GSOH. Box 437120 TKT

HI! I'm a down-to-earth male, 40, 5'7", medium build, green eyes, loves out-dogs, sports, beach walks etc, WLM an outgoing female for good times. Box 899003 TKT

SINGLE male, 42, slim, 6ft, short hair, loves smart clothes, watching bands, pubs, clubs, DVDs, seeking slim-medium build lady 34-40 for snuggles and cuddles on sofas! Box 437494 TKT

IAN, 40, 5'7", medium build, green eyes turning blue when it is cold, loves live sports and golf, seeking an active female, 30-39. Box 899003 TKT

ATTRACTIVE guy, nice to be with, laid-back, I'm 41, 5ft 8, medium-stocky build, brown hair, owns business, enjoys walks, pubs, wine, restaurants, cinema. Box 430286

41YR old joker, loves animals and having lots of laughs, seeks a female of similar character for fun-loving relationship. Box 438023 TKT

HELLO you, if you're fed up with looking back at the past and wondering what if? I'm 41, I'm your man! Box 908888 TKT

HANDSOME male, 43, kind, good-looking, enjoys music, cinema, nights in with a glass of wine, seeks attractive, kind, caring female, 30-45, for fun/friendship/relationship, maybe more. Box 367907 TKT

ATTENTION ladies! Nice looking, cheery fun loving guy, 42, seeks an attractive, fun loving female for loads of laughs! East Kent. Box 824810 TKT

LOVING male, 41, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", likes cinema, beach walks, bowling, music, holidays, theatre, seeks female, 35-52, for a happy relationship. Box 437574 TKT

GOOD-LOOKING male, 42, 6'2", well built, muscular, fit, enjoys cars, motor-bike, golf, rugby, socialising, travel, seeks female for friendship, leading to serious relationship. Box 158489 TKT

IM 45, 5ft 10, medium build, blue eyes, shaved head, like having fun, a laugh, love music and film, seeking a female 25-48 for romance. Box 435737 TKT

SINCERE, stocky southern Irish guy, skinnhead, no ties, 43, enjoys motor racing, sports, cinema, the good life, disco, seeks lady to share life with. Kent. Box 417532 TKT

ACTIVE male, 44, 6'2", slim/medium, blue eyes, brown hair, enjoys most things, especially travelling and adventures. Seeking female for company or more. Box 909093 TKT

Lily in the pink after walk on the wild side

ACCORDING to the old showbusiness saying, never work with children or animals. This week, roving reporter Julie Maddocks did both – at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in Kent.

The Yourkenttv journalist met nine-year-old Lily Duffield who was taking part in the park's scheme to become a junior zookeeper for the day. Miss Maddocks said: "Working with animals may be a dream for Lily, but judging by the article she's written about her experience she has some potential as a journalist as well. As for me, after being sprayed by a lion I think I'll stick to the day job!" Watch Miss Maddocks' film at www.yourkenttv.co.uk and read Lily's article here...



TOP DAY OUT: Lily, made a new friend at the zoo

WHEN I leave school, I want to be a animal keeper. Well, I think I do, but how can I be sure?

Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Folkestone, offers children the opportunity to try their hand at the job and I jumped at the chance of having a go.

A day as a junior keeper is an unforgettable experience.

First I went to see the rhinos. They are really funny. To get your attention they make a squeaky hum. And did you know that rhinos in the wild only live to about 30? The oldest at Port Lympne is a grand old lady of 38.

Next, I went to the other side of the

By **LILY DUFFIELD**

park to the gorillas. They have so much personality and are also clever. Did you know that 98 per cent of a gorilla's DNA is the same as ours?

It was raining and a Silverback gorilla put straw on his back to keep him dry. I also watched a mother and her baby dipping sticks into a pot of honey and licking them clean.

Back at the park's African Experience, we went to see the feeding of the giraffes. They are so tall, yet so graceful, seeming to walk in slow motion. Their keeper told me they only sleep for around two hours a day and they chew the cud, like cows.

We passed the elephant enclosure

and met the keeper. He talked about the bull elephant and how he has taught him to put his feet up for inspection.

He has also taught the elephants to show him their ears. This is not a circus trick. It's so the keepers can check them over without having to sedate them with darts.

The elephants have a funny diet; they eat bananas, parsnips, carrots, apples, donuts, hot cross buns, peanut butter and jam.

The whole day was a fantastic experience. All the keepers were friendly and spent time talking about their animals.

I would recommend this to everyone... especially if you, like me, love animals. When can I return?

a lot more choice...

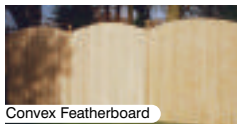
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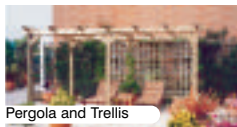


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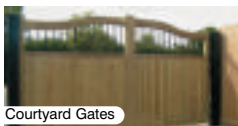


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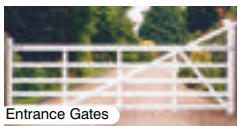


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WIN junior keeper for a day prize

YOU can win the opportunity to be a junior keeper for the day at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park as part of a group of children and their accompanying adults.

During this tailor-made day you will learn about cleaning, feeding and enrichment of the animals.

Junior keepers will have a guided tour around the park, make a treat for one of the animals and assist a keeper with feeding as well as cleaning an animal enclosure.

The day at Port Lympne includes a VIP African Experience, a safari where animals such as giraffe, zebra, and wildebeest roam free as in Africa.

A stop at the Bug Zone provides an opportunity to handle some creepy crawlies and then on to help give the gorillas their lunch.

All children must be aged seven or over and accompanied by a paying adult. If you don't win this great competition you can always pay £50 per person to become a junior keeper for the day which includes lunch, a goodie bag and certificate.

Adults can experience keeper for the day as an individual for £195.

To book this unique experience phone 01303 264647 or visit www.totallywild.net.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Port Lympne Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. No purchase necessary.

For our full terms and conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry. Closing date is April 24.

• Question: Where is Port Lympne Animal Park?

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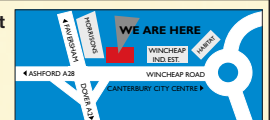
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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

More openness

KENT County Council, the nation's biggest local authority, would do well to consider how it uses its hefty clout when dealing with external commercial trading companies.

The waters are getting cloudy, if not choppy. Perhaps it's time for councillors and officials to step back and take stock.

Bus operator John Mancini is complaining to the Local Government Ombudsman after KCC's Kent Top Travel scooped a prime bus route which went out to tender – from KCC – with a bid he says wouldn't cover running costs.

The shortfall, he said, must be coming from elsewhere. The implication is clear.

KOS Media, as a public representative, has put in four Freedom of Information requests for details about commercial contracts – three were rejected, one ran past the official deadline for an answer. KCC Liberal Democrat Cllr Trudy Dean has called for more transparency.

When Cllr Nick Chard, KCC's cabinet member for finance, says the private sector has a problem with competition he is missing the point.

The private sector thrives on competition – what it sees as fair competition which is in the long-term interests of taxpayers and local businesses.

Local businesses feel so strongly they've even set up a "ginger group" with a website www.kcc-hands-off.co.uk and businessman Jack Parkinson certainly made his views known at KCC's stall at the 2020 business exhibition.

KCC might be going too far, too fast. No business or taxpayer would try to stop KCC making a fair buck to prevent high rate rises – but at the end of the day it's a public authority and should have all its constituents at heart.

OPINION: Fighting on the front line

A WARTIME poster showing a defiant Kentish Territorial astride the map of our county sums up what TA 100 is all about.

Let's be clear about this: we are the front line county, with every reason to be proud of our role as guardians of the gateway to England, and every reason to celebrate the centenary of the Territorial Army.

Not lightly did the great Kent historian Edward Hasted write two centuries ago: "A privilege... claimed by the men from Kent... is that of being placed in the vanguard of the Army... which right was granted to them on account of their gallant and noble behaviour in the encounters between the Saxons and Danes, long before the Conquest."

We alone were not conquered by William the Norman. And right down through the centuries to today we have a wonderful record of volunteer military service and of seeing off would-be invaders.

Throughout that time until 1908 the Lieutenancy played a key role in raising Kentish forces and organising the defence of the county – and we still retain strong links with our Armed Forces today.

A century ago this month the Territorial Force – later called the Territorial Army – was formed from the Yeomanry, Militia and Rifle Volunteers.

Let us all celebrate the brave exploits of Kent's Territorials, says ALLAN WILLETT CMG

Celebrating this great milestone is my Lieutenancy's main initiative this year.

But we are not forgetting that no fewer than one third of The Few who fought and won the Battle of Britain in Kentish skies, making eventual victory possible, were Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

Nor are we forgetting that down here in Kent we claim we invented the Royal Navy through the Cinque Ports!

It would take a book to record the service and exploits of Kent's Territorial soldiers, many of whom made the supreme sacrifice in World War One.

Their tough Kentish spirit lived on during World War Two. One outstanding example is the epic story of the 4th Queen's Own Royal West Kents who fought off the Japanese surrounding them at Kohima for 16 death-defying days.

The unit, only 438-strong, held an entire Japanese Division at bay and stopped the invasion of India. Remarkably, it was the only TA infantry battalion that fought all three of our major wartime enemies, the Germans, Italians and Japanese, on three continents.

Another extraordinary example was that of Kent Fortress Engineers, a TA unit that sent groups of soldiers across to France at the time of Dunkirk and after, to blow up oil refineries and depots along the coast of Europe.

More than 2,000,000 tons of oil was denied to the enemy and its destruction had a major effect on the decision not to invade England.

Kent's Territorial Army soldiers played a vital part in facing down the Warsaw Pact throughout the Cold War and the thread of service continues through to the important contribution they are making today in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The TA used to be known by some as a force of last resort. It is now the reserve of first choice. The unit names may change and today the numbers may be smaller, but our TA soldiers are of the same tough Kentish stock.

In the words of the old recruiting slogan they are twice a citizen – serving the nation in uniform as well as holding down a civilian job.

Our TA soldiers are a great asset to our county and the nation – valuable and valued – and they



deserve greater public support.

Such service – and especially deployment on operations – imposes great strain on family relationships and on civilian careers.

Yet they and their predecessors have always been – and still are – ready and willing to answer the nation's call.

That is why it is so important that we recognise their service and sacrifice across the county during this centenary year celebrations, including a joint Veterans Day and TA 100 event at The Historic Dockyard Chatham on July 5, and other linked events at Penshurst Place, Maidstone and Dover.

The highlight will be a parade and thanksgiving service attended by General Sir Richard Dannatt, Chief of the General Staff of the British Army, at Canterbury Cathedral on September 6 for all serving Territorials – and for veterans who have served over the years – and I urge the people of Kent to demonstrate their support.

• **Allan Willett is the Lord Lieutenant of Kent**

CRACKING EASTER FUN at Bluewater

A fun-filled month of free family entertainment, craft workshops, face painting and special events.

Mon 31 March - Sun 20 April

12pm - 5pm. All activity is FREE of charge.

Weekdays Mon 31 March - Fri 18 April (inclusive)

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Sat 12 April

Bart and Homer Simpson will be making a special appearance

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Barney
the growing children

Sat 19 and Sun 20 April

Come and meet Barney

12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm

Located in Lower Thames Walk



Sat 5 & Sun 6 April

Come and Meet Fifi and Bumble from Fifi and the Flowerpots™

12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm

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Stop wanton despoil

It is most encouraging to read that Michael Howard MP is taking a proactive role and lead in evaluating the Sellindge and Smeeth site.

If only more MPs would come forward to question the merits.

Kent County Council has a poor recent history on major strategic and planning decisions and it was disappointing to note the blanket approval of Paul Carter for this site.

First, the moveable barrier must be tested as it may significantly alleviate the problem.

Second, the environmental impact analysis must take place and be respected.

Finally, there should be genuine local consultation – which has been lacking on other decisions.

I was brought up in the Smeeth and Sellindge area, which has seen the converter station, the M20, and the high-speed rail link.

But unless it proves absolutely essential beyond any doubt, one should not wantonly despoil forever another 70 acres of its remaining greenfield land.

Ben Moorhead
Wye

Stack hidden agenda

I wish to raise my objection to the proposed lorry park, on the outskirts of Sellindge, supposedly to be built as a solution to 'Operation Stack'.

My objection is based on the following:

How much consideration has been given to the concreting over of a large chunk of the Kent countryside, as opposed to the quickly deployable removable barrier scheme – which I understood would be a far cheaper option?

We already have a large stretch of concrete in Kent – called the M20, and I had thought that the deployable barrier was not only the cheaper, but the preferred solution which was shortly to be trialled?

Contra-flows work well enough during road works and I see no reason why this option

Freedom is well earned

I would like to congratulate the Royal Engineers on being given the freedom of the Medway Towns.

These men and women do an incredibly difficult job and risk their lives while serving their country.

It is only right they get publicly recognised for their bravery and I am glad that the decision to grant the freedom was universally backed by councillors of all parties.

While I did not support the Government's decision to send our troops

to Iraq, there is absolutely no doubt that they have done an exemplary job and deserve our support, respect and heartfelt thanks.

I hope that members of the public in Medway will turn out to support the Royal Engineers on their march through the towns on May 17, to show that we appreciate what they do for our country and the people of the Medway Towns.

Cllr Geoff Juby
Liberal Democrat Group Leader
Gillingham



should not prove to be an acceptable solution. As I understand it, approximately 3,000 lorries use the port of Dover each day. The proposed park capacity would therefore only remove the problem for one day.

Where would the lorries park after that?

The park I understand, if built, will also have access via the A20 in addition to the M20. I can well foresee numerous lorries choosing to use the A20, adding to the already high volume of traffic through the local villages.

If this park is meant to be the solution to Stack then, putting aside the recent SeaFrance strike, over the last 20 years it would only have been needed, on average, on approximately 10 occasions in any one year.

So £40m does not seem like value for money to me.

The removable barrier would seem a much

more cost effective solution. Or is Stack just a screen for the first, of many, lorry parks across our county?

DJ Hammond
Sellindge

We just stand a chance

I have written to Southeastern trains following last year's appearance of Charles Horton, the managing director, on television wherein he personally promised the fare-paying passengers using the Southeastern services that they would see a vast improvement in timings.

When the 2007-08 winter timetable was published for the Sheerness-Sittingbourne branch line they reduced the connecting time for their mainline trains by two to four

minutes. So much for any improvements that were promised.

In reply, the firm stated "we operate a complex and busy network with high volume of trains particularly during the morning and evening rush hours".

There is spare capacity in running times for freight to be carried by rail during off-peak times, but if Southeastern is unwilling to amend the timings by a few minutes to give a better service, what chance is there for freight traffic?

Also over the years, goods yards has been sold off to make way for housing developments, furthermore, how would this government survive without the fuel tax it receives from all the lorries?

If a lorry park or parks were built to accommodate these vehicles during strikes by French workers, I am sure that they would find a way to blockade the Channel Tunnel to get their own way.

In other words we don't stand a chance on winning on any debate that affects our way of living.

TJ Aird
Sheerness-on-sea

Support autistic adults

As a supporter of the National Autistic Society (NAS), I am very worried about the lack of help available to adults with autism.

Autism is a lifelong condition, yet as 'I Exist', the new report from the NAS has found, many adults with the disability struggle to get the help they so desperately need.

Many feel isolated and ignored and are entirely dependent on their families for support.

I want to see the right services and support in place so people with autism in Dover can reach their true potential – the right help at the right time can have a profound effect.

That is why I'm supporting the NAS 'think differently about autism' campaign. I urge

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Letters continued on p34

Get out and about this Spring




**7th-11th April
Flower Fun Week**

A fabulous flower girl will visit the farm each day between 12pm and 4pm, to meet the children. There will be lots of children's games and flower crafts to take part in. There will be a chance to plant your own sunflower to take home and watch grow. You can exercise your green fingers and then enter your fabulous flower in the tallest sunflower competition.

13th April Classic Car Show
(in aid of Miles of Smiles) Separate entry charge applies.

**14th-18th April
Creepy Crawlies Week**

The friendly farm animals will be joined by a variety of spiders, lizards and snakes. Invicta Arachnids will share their knowledge of insects (except on 16th April). On Wednesday Reptiles R Us will join the fun. There will also be a variety of creepy crawlies crafts to make throughout the week.

The farm's next event will be **Sheep Shearing and Wool Week** between 26th and 30th May.

Plus all the fun of Farming World's other attractions:

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For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BRIDGES

Cerys Louise Patricia born on 28th March 2008, weighing 10lb 2oz. Daughter to Caroline and Andrew in Ramsgate. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

BROWN

Anthony and Caroline Brown would like to announce the arrival of Austin Daniel Brown on 22nd March 2008, weighing 7lb 11oz.

CANSICK

Ruby-Maria Elizabeth Cansick born on 28th March 2008, weighing 7lb 10oz. Daughter to Sonni Histed and Lianne Cansick in Maidstone.

CHURCH

Richard and Amy are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their handsome son Richard Alexander, who was born at 7.53pm on 17th March 2008 and weighed 9lb 9oz.

DADD

To Bernie and Emma of Whitstable, a beautiful son, Michael Lincoln Dadd, born on 11th March 2008. A new baby brother for Rosa and Amy.

DENBY

Tim and Jo of Broadstairs celebrate the birth of their son Jacob Evan on 18th March 2008.

FERGUSON

Phil and Julie of Elvington are pleased to announce the birth of their second daughter, Cailey May, on 18th March 2008. A new baby sister for Courtney.

FLETCHER

Daniel Riki John Fletcher born on 15th March 2008, weighing 6lbs 14oz. Son to Fletch and Niki.

GILL

Leon Bailey Gill, born 25th March 2008 weighing 7lb 14oz! Son to Paul and Amanda.

GOWER

Zara Jasmine born on 16th March 2008 weighing 8lb 8oz. Daughter to Sandra and Graham Gower in Maidstone.

HALES

Jude Leslie Hales born on 20th March 2008, weighing 6lb 11.5oz. Son to Leslie Hales and Ruth Moore in Maidstone.

HOVELL

Chris and Shona would like to announce the birth of their beautiful baby girl Shanna Maggie-Lou who was born at 7pm on the 26th March 2008 and weighed 6lb 11oz. Her parents are absolutely delighted and would like to thank all family and friends for their gifts and help.

JORDAN

Gareth Kelly and Tracey Jordan are pleased to announce the birth of their Daughter Jazmin, born on 24th February 2008, weighing 7lb.

KARAPINAR

To Emin and Clare of Canterbury, a beautiful son, Cengiz Efe Karapinar, born on 15th March 2008.

LANCASTER

To Adam and Janine of Deal, a beautiful daughter, Lilian Alice, born on 2nd March 2008. A new baby sister for Elizabeth and Abbie.

FALL

Rebecca and Martin are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Layla Louise Fall on the 4.3.08. A little sister for Amelia.

McKENZIE

Chloe Jade McKenzie born on 18th March 2008, weighing 8lb 3oz. Daughter to Steven and Kelly and Sister to Leah and Eleisha.

MITCHELL

Eloise Faye Mitchell, born 19th March 2008 weighing 7lb 1oz. Daughter to Lee Mitchell and Naomi Croucher.

NELDER-SANTOS

To Mary (of Herne Bay) and Bruno (of Grays) a beautiful daughter, Sky Nelder-Santos, born on 17th March 2008 weighing 7lb 10oz.

O'NEILL

Shane and Michelle of Ashford celebrate the birth of their son Connor O'Neill, born on 20th March 2008, weighing 9lb 4oz. A brother for Callum O'Neill.

PETERSON-PEARCE

Mat and Mandy are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Amelia Linda, who was born at 00.31 am on the 19th March 2008 and weighed 7lb 1oz. Amelia is a baby sister to Madeleine Christina.

PEW

Scott and Kayla of Canterbury are happy to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Kiera Louise, on 15th March 2008.

PHILPS

Chrissie, Bernie and Charlotte Philps of Margate celebrate the birth of Lewis Joshua Philps on 12th March 2008.

QUAIF-DAVIS

David and Amanda are delighted to announce the arrival of Lily Grace on March 1st 2008 weighing 5lb.

RICKARD

Keith and Jane are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Cerys Jessie Hamblet at home on 24th March 2008 weighing 7lb 4oz

RIDING

Chris and Sam of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Jasmine Louise, on 18th March 2008. Jasmine weighed 7lb 2oz.

SCHAFER

Jenson Brian James born on the 23rd March 2008, weighing 5lb 5oz. Son to Matthew and Ellen.

SKINNER

Andy and Jackie from Gravesend are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Caitlin Jane Skinner born on 20th February 2008 weighing 6lb 3oz. A sister to Callum.

TEHEL

Oliver and Emily of Canterbury are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Lilia Faith, on 22nd March 2008.

TENNIS

Tia Brenna born on the 23rd March 2008, weighing 6lb 4oz. Daughter to Jason and Lisa of Folkestone.

WITHEY

Nick and Fiona of Deal are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Alice, on 25th February 2008. A new baby sister for Harry and Emily.

WOKES

Jane Martin Owen and Ethan are proud to announce the Birth of Aidan Joseph born on the 6th March 2008 weighing 9lb 10oz. What a beautiful baby you are.

WOODCOCK

David and Elizabeth celebrate the birth of their son achilles Woodcock on 23rd February 2008.

WRIGHT

Stephen born 21st March 08 weighing 8lb 8oz. Son to Chris and Gemma. Ramsgate Kent.

DEATHS

BAILIE

James Joseph, aged 65, passed away at the William Harvey Hospital on 28th March 2008, after a short illness. Immediate family only for the funeral. Dearly missed by his two daughters Carmel and Theresa.

BELL

Arthur William passed peacefully away on 21st March 2008 at Maidstone Hospital aged 78 years. Cremation on 9th April, Tunbridge Wells Crematorium at 12.30 all welcome, family flowers only, donations to Kent Air Ambulance via Boormans of Tonbridge.

DIXON

Eva Patricia Dixon aged 89 years passed away at home on the 25th March 2008. Cremation at Eltham Crematorium on the 11th April 2008 at 1.45pm. Donations to Eleanor Hospice.

DOWNES

Joseph Michael Downes of Sittingbourne passed away on 28th March 2008, aged 92. Enquiries to R. High and Sons Funeral Directors, 01795 472958. Funeral service will be held at Borden Parish Church on Tuesday 15th April 2008 at 11 o'clock.

DRUDGE

Edward (Ted) passed away peacefully at the Kent and Sussex Hospital on 28th March 2008. Loving Husband, Daddy, Grandad and Great-Grandad X.

DYE

Arthur Lindon Dye of Canterbury passed away suddenly on 20th March 2008. Leaving behind his daughters Carla and Zoe and his grandson Robert. He will be very sadly missed. The funeral was held on 3rd April at Barham Crematorium.

GILBERT

Joan Alice Gilbert of Maidstone passed away on 27th March 2008. Enquiries to Doves Funerals, Maidstone 01622 688662.

GOODHEW

Ivan William Sydney Goodhew of Maidstone passed away on 28th March 2008. Enquiries to Doves Funerals, Maidstone 01622 688662.

HARVEY

Maurice Henry Harvey of Herne Bay passed away peacefully after a long illness, on 21st March 2008. Beloved husband of Joan and a loving dad and grandad, he will be very sadly missed by all who knew him.

HEAD

Georgina Elizabeth Head of St Georges Court, Wrotham, passed away at home on 25th March 2008 aged 82 years. With special thanks to Dr Richard Gale at Pembury and Kent and Sussex Hospitals for all their care and concern over the years. She will be sadly missed by all family and friends. Rest in peace dear Mum, lovely Nanny Jean.

HEPDEN

Hepden Frederick. Beloved Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather. Born in Burwash, East Sussex on 1st May 1909, died peacefully in the Kent and Sussex Hospital on 29th March 2008. Fred will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

HIGGINS

Ronald passed away on 25 March 2008 in Kent and Canterbury Hospital. He will be missed by his family and friends. The funeral will be held on 11 March 2008, contact Kemps of Whitstable for further information.

HONEY

Dennis Honey, loving husband of Shirley, passed away peacefully after a long illness on 30th March 2008, aged 80. Enquiries to Sears Funeral Services, Barming 01622 725035.

JEDROSZYK

Kathleen Jedroszyk, nee Mushett, died peacefully on 25th March 2008, aged 91. Mizpah.

JONES

Barbara Jones passed away on 22nd March 2008. Sadly missed by husband Victor, Steven and Deborah. Always in our thoughts.

MANNING

Henry Manning of Dover, formerly of Tenby, Wales passed away peacefully on 17th March 2008, aged 83.

MARSH

Leslie John Marsh of Canterbury passed away peacefully in hospital on 21st March 2008, aged 93. Greatly loved father of Gillian, grandfather of Martyn and Russell and Great grandfather of Joshua Kemp. Much admired by all. Former Invicta Motors employee. The funeral took place at Barham Crematorium on Friday April 4th. Donations if desired to The National Childrens Home c/o C W Lyons and Son 01227 463508.

PAINE

Nigel Paine of Waltham passed away peacefully after a long illness which was bravely fought, on 22nd March 2008 at The Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury. Loving husband of Yvette and doting father to Joshua. A much loved younger brother to Phil and Denny and beloved son to Betty. If desired any donations to The Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury.

PLUCKROSE

The family wish to thank people for the flowers and kind wishes following the funeral of Dennis Alfred Pluckrose, who died on 14th March 2008, aged 82. A special thanks to Geoff Luckman and Mr Firmager and his staff.

PRITCHARD

Edith Mary Pritchard of Maidstone passed away on 29th March 2008, aged 90. Enquiries to Viner and Sons Funeral Directors, West Malling 01732 842485.

SHORTER

Cissie Shorter of Maidstone, formally of Yalding, passed away peacefully after a short illness on 24th March 2008, aged 98 years.

STOCKMAN

Rocky (Brian Turner Stockman) sadly passed away on 25th March 2008. Always a bright and cheery soul, he will be deeply missed by all who knew him. The funeral was held at Barham Crematorium on 2nd April 2008.

STONESTREET

Marguerita Violet Stonestreet, of Lenham, passed away after a long illness on 30th March 2008 at The William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Funeral service at St John The Baptist Harrietsham at 2pm on 16th April.

WEBB

Robert John beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather and friend to many. Passed away on the 29th March 2008, after a long illness. Will be missed by everybody who knew and loved him. Enquiries to Abbey Funeral services 01732 360328.

Letters continued from p33

people to visit www.think-differently.org.uk and help put pressure on local and national government to do more to transform the lives of adults with autism.

Jean Marsh
Dover

Give us winged wonder

I refer to your article concerning the Ebbsfleet Valley statue.

When the idea of a statue to compliment the Angel of the North was first mooted, I immediately thought of a horse.

I did not, however, consider the Kent Invicta horse to be appropriate, but instead the winged horse Pegasus to be more suited. It could be described as the Pegasus of the South or the Angel of the South.

I believe that the outstretched wings of the horse would be sympathetic to the outstretched arms of the northern angel and as we know angels do have wings. While a horse would emphasise with our own Kent

Invicta I feel this statue should be more of an emblem of Kent and needs to convey the site as Eurostar's gateway to Europe.

Being a winged horse, it would symbolise travel across the Continent to and from this major railway site at Ebbsfleet.

I appreciate five artists have been short-listed to design this statue. Now, I am no artist and for that reason I have not included a specific design.

There are of course many ideas available of what Pegasus might have looked like. I like the idea of it rising up from rock base, which might appropriately be in white, to represent the chalk of Kent.

Frank Boxall
Dover

I want peace and quiet

I picked up a copy of your newspaper for the first time this week and was pleased with some of the news items.

However, I strongly disagree with your correspondent Mr Epps' views on the expansion of Manston airport.

First, I always thought an island was surrounded by sea and having been deafened by aeroplanes coming in to land while in Ramsgate, it didn't feel much like an island to me.

Even if aircraft are able to fly over the sea they still have to approach Manston by flying over many houses and people. Aeroplanes make a great deal of noise wherever they land.

Second, although there is some open space surrounding Manston on one side, there are a lot of houses on the other sides.

We live in Herne Bay and although not on top of the airport, when the wind is in the wrong direction they approach Manston by flying directly over our houses on the sea front and then straight up Herne Bay High Street.

The North Kent Coast already has to put up with the bombardment from Shoeburyness and I, for one, would appreciate a little peace and quiet and am totally against any further expansion of any airports in any place.

S Haine
Herne Bay

Government impotence

The continual racking up of productive taxes, like those on alcohol, highlights four main problems with this government.

First, its impotence in properly dealing with society's problems, second its denial that its policies are exacerbating them, third its insatiable greed for our money to fund its inefficiency, and fourth its inability to deal with the truth.

After helping to create the environment where binge drinking can flourish, especially with the introduction of 24-hour drinking, the Government now think we are stupid enough to believe increasing the price of alcohol is the answer, so making drugs a cheaper alternative.

If they at least used the extra money raised to improve control on binge drinking, it could be partly believable, but just like 'green taxes' are never used to solve or repair the problem, so also we know the alcohol taxes too, will just go into the Government's bottomless pit.

Phil Granger
West Malling

'My pride in the bravery of the Royal Air Force'

By **DEREK TWIGG**

Defence Minister

OVER the last 90 years the Royal Air Force has operated around the world on and over every continent, in every major UK conflict, to defend the interests of the UK.

In its short history, the RAF has made a huge impact on the world stage. First and foremost, that is credit to the brave men and women who serve and have served in the Royal Air Force. From urgent humanitarian assistance to life-saving search and rescue operations, from medical support in Kosovo to war fighting in Afghanistan, they have served and continue to serve with bravery and distinction.

On April 1, 1918, the Royal Air Force, the world's first independent air force, was formed out of the squadrons of the Army Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service. It had become apparent that duplication and competition for scarce resources were undermining the efficient delivery of this powerful new instrument. By the end of World War One, the RAF was the largest air force in the world with a staggering 23,000 aerial platforms.

It is difficult to comprehend the enormous contribution and sacrifice of the personnel of Coastal and Bomber Command during World War Two and of course without the dedication and bravery of Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain our entire nation would have been lost.

More recently, the RAF have been policing the skies over Iraq for 17 years; they have

also been deployed in the Falkland Islands for 25 years. As well as these longer-term commitments, the RAF remains ready to react at a moment's notice. Delivery of aid to remote and inaccessible locations following natural and man-made disasters, such as after the tsunami and the Pakistan earthquake, as well as providing search-and-rescue cover at home in the UK, are roles which the RAF has carried out across the span of its history.

Now, as the RAF did right back at the time of its formation, the service works in close co-operation with the other Armed Forces on joint operations. In Afghanistan today the Air Force are making a huge difference in the air and on the ground in support of British military operations. I have no doubt that many servicemen and women owe their lives to the intervention of their RAF colleagues.

Honour

The commitment and sacrifices of the airmen and women, regulars and reserves, over the last 90 years should rightly be remembered and celebrated by us all. I thank RAF veterans, young and old, for their contributions and they will, I am sure, join me in wishing those currently serving all the very best on this special anniversary.

As the Under Secretary of State for Defence it is my privilege and honour to serve men and women such as these. I have seen them at work in Afghanistan and elsewhere, and I remain extremely proud of their professionalism and bravery.

• Derek Twigg is Under Secretary of State for Defence at the Ministry of Defence.

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Short courses at Medway

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Courses run from 6.30-8.30pm from week commencing 21 April for 6 weeks.

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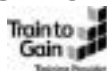
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Diploma scheme is to go countywide

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

FURTHER education colleges and secondary schools in Kent have joined forces to give more students the chance to earn the Government's new diploma qualifications.

The 14 to 19 Partnership has been running as a pilot scheme and now the Department of Children, Schools and Families has given the go ahead for Kent County Council to roll out the project across the county.

From 2009, up to 4,000 students will be able to study for diplomas in subjects such as engineering, construction, hair and beauty, environment and land-based studies and IT.

Diplomas on offer also include media, hospitality and catering, business administration, finance and society health and development.

Cllr Mark Dance, KCC's cabinet member for education operations, said: "Getting the nod from the DCSF is tremendous news which means we can expand on the great work already undertaken by our four pilot schemes. "With the help of

local business and further education facilities we are able to offer a real choice for young people who may not necessarily be interested in the traditional academic qualifications.

"In Towards 2010 [a strategy document setting out the authority's four targets] we have set out targets to raise the expectations and opportunities of young people and this certainly delivers on that promise."

KCC said that by 2010, every secondary school student in the county will have the opportunity to take part in offering one of these vocational qualifications to their students.

And more subjects will be on offer including science, humanities and foreign languages.

Controversial

"These diplomas give them the opportunity to learn and train in a profession which excites them and gives them a great chance of employment when they leave school, already qualified to do those jobs," Cllr Dance added.

Students can combine GCSEs, A-levels or vocational qualifications as part of the diploma.

The new diplomas are being phased in by the Government which hopes the qualification will soon be chosen by students over GCSEs and A-levels. They have proved highly controversial.

They are being targeted at students who are less academically minded and can lead to further study or to a job with training.

Find more education and training stories online
www.kentnews.co.uk

School takes a lead in high-tech learning

A KENT grammar school has joined the digital world with students able to access their homework through iPods and mobile phones in a bid to meet government targets.

Maidstone Grammar School has employed technology called Studywiz, which is an online tool that can be used by all young people with an internet connection.

Pupils can work anytime by downloading their work, sending it back to teachers to be marked, uploading images onto their own gallery and discussing their projects in secure monitored forums.

Their personal space can be accessed via mobile phones, iPods and Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) meaning they

can learn on the move.

The maker, Etech Europe, said: "This learning platform technology is helping the school address important government targets, which require every school in the country to have this type of technology in place this year."

"The school is also part of a select group piloting the Kent Learning Zone, a new portal set up by Kent County Council aimed at helping schools manage their IT in a simple, secure environment."

"Maidstone Grammar School is setting an excellent example to other schools in the area and leading the way when it comes to addressing e-learning targets."

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Closing date for completed applications: 18 April 2008



KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services. Founded in 1975 and currently employing over 300 paid and unpaid staff, it has an annual budget of £11 million and is becoming established as one of the leading service providers in the South East Region.

Operating in the drug & alcohol and mental health sectors, KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services for adults and young people.

REF: 473 - YOUNG PERSONS' DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES WORKER - CANTERBURY

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For an application form please contact: KCA Head Office, Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT

Tel: 01795 590635, Fax: 01795 539351
email recruitment@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk

Closing Date: 18 April 2008

Interview Date: 29 April 2008

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Charity No: 292824



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Email recruitment@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk

Closing date: 21st April 2008

Interview date: 29th April 2008

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Theatre Royal Margate

BOX OFFICE SUPERVISOR

The dynamic Theatre Royal Margate is seeking a well-organised, friendly person with excellent interpersonal skills and box office experience, to join its core team. We need a Box Office Supervisor to deliver an excellent service to our audiences and provide marketing/front of house support.

This is a varied and challenging full-time position, inc. some evenings and weekend work. Salary £16,000-18,000.

Closing Date 13th April

For Job description and Application pack please call 01843 293397 or email: admin@theatreroyalmargate.co.uk

PLUMBER £19-22K

REQUIRED FOR SERCO LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANTERBURY

CORGI registered with NVQ 3, full driving licence for housing maintenance

Please contact Lynne Beckley on 01227 819419 or email lbeckley@canterbury.serco.com
Ref Number: PLMB/LB04.2008



Sales and Marketing Manager Folkestone OTE: £21,000

This is a key role within the club and requires a highly motivated individual possessing excellent leadership skills and the ability to create effective promotional campaigns and increase membership levels. The successful candidate will have a proven track record in sales and marketing, however not necessarily in the Health Club sector. If you are bright and enthusiastic then this could be the job for you.

You will be required to market the club both internally and externally, develop relationships within the local business and residential community establishing Bannatyne's as the market leader in the area.

Getting the most out of your team is essential for success, you will have to lead from the front, deliver results and motivate your team to follow.

Membership Advisor Folkestone OTE £15,500

This is a key role within the club and requires a highly motivated, and positive individual possessing excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to promote the premier health club.

The successful candidate will be required to work well within a team whilst working shifts and also be good with figures.

Previous experience within the leisure industry is not essential as full training will be given, although previous sales experience is desirable.

Bannatyne's will offer you the opportunity to develop your talents in an industry which is truly rewarding.

So if you enjoy working with the public, are dedicated, enthusiastic and passionate about the business and would like to get more out of life then simply apply now!

Please send CV's with a cover letter to Rob Hayes at g.m.folkestone@bannatyne.co.uk or hand in at reception

Shearway Business Park, Shearway Road, Folkestone CT19 4RH
01303 270888

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E-Marketing Manager x 2

Holiday Extras is a young and exciting company and growing fast. We are looking for an E-Marketing Manager to join our ever expanding Web Team in Newingreen.

You will be expected to:

- Outline multi channel brand strategies to align with business objectives
- Coordinate innovative and exciting marketing campaigns
- Define effective marketing strategies to develop long term customer retention and increase their value to the business
- Oversee all marketing activity for Directs, Intermediary and Agents for your brands
- Successfully manage small teams to ensure delivery of results

Responsibilities:

- Brand strategy
- Ensure the balance is struck between brand and SEO with the content team
- Understand our customers and their behaviour, developing customer profiles
- Campaign management, focusing on customer acquisition rate and customer retention rate
- Knowing the numbers. i.e set budgets and analyse market trends

The Requirements:

- At least 4 years marketing experience/relevant degree/industry experience
- Extensive project management skills
- Excellent people and relationship management skills
- Ability to adapt to change in a highly fluid market
- A solid technical knowledge
- E-Commerce experience

We Expect:

Great ROIs - Conversions and repeat business - Production of good quality work within agreed timescales - Innovation - Productive relationships with external agencies

Salary up to £30,000 (DOE).

Interested? Then please send your CV and covering letter to **Holiday Extras, Newingreen, Hythe, Kent CT21 4JF** or to recruitment@holidayextras.com

Closing Date: 11 April 2008



COACH DRIVERS

We have vacancies for full time Coach drivers for immediate start on a variety of work.

Interested Ring Jason Dancer
01304 645517 or email:
operations@buzzlines.co.uk

buzzlines
coach operators

CONTROL ROOM OPERATOR

We are looking for an energetic and enthusiastic person to join our team of Control Room Operators who assist in the running of a 24hr Vehicle Breakdown, Recovery and Transportation Company. A knowledge of the industry would be an advantage, but it is essential to have a good telephone manner, common sense and an ability to think logically under pressure.

Apply in writing, including a CV to:

Personnel Director, Eclipse Recovery Services Ltd,
The Warren, Ratling Road, Ratling,
Canterbury, Kent CT3 3BD

Or call 01304 843011 for an Application Form.
Closing date: 16th April 2008



The Regional Screen Agency for the South East of England seeks a

MEDIABOX & YOUTH PROJECTS CO-ORDINATOR PART-TIME (FIXED TERM CONTRACT)

£18,000 - £22,000 Pro Rata depending on experience
For job specification, application form or further information please see our website or contact Vanessa Cook.
Please send completed application form, current CV and letter of motivation stating where you saw the position advertised to vanessa.cook@screen-south.org or Screen South

The Wedge, 75-81 Tontine Street, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1JR
T: 01303 259 777 F: 01303 259 786
www.screen-south.org

Closing date: 18 April 2008
Interviews to be held on: 28 April 2008
Screen South are an equal opportunities employer

PARTS ASSISTANT

Baileys Nissan require a Parts Assistant for busy parts department. Parts experience is essential. Nissan knowledge an advantage. Clean driving license required.

Apply with CV to

Mr G Tong
Baileys Nissan
Westminster Road
Vauxhall Ind. Estate
Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YY
01227 766777
email: guy.tong@baileysnissan.co.uk



COMMERCIAL WINDOW SURVEYOR

You will be responsible for measuring properties for the installation of PVCU window and door products that are undergoing refurbishment. This role involves transferring surveyed data to a window design software package to create work instructions. You will be joining the surveying team who work across the South of England. Experience is preferred but is not essential. Attention to detail and enthusiasm are important.

NVQ training will be provided as will a company car, pension and attractive salary package.

Please apply by CV and covering letter to the Surveying Manager at
Piper Windows 140 Newington Road,
Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6PP.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer



KOS Media, publisher of the award-winning Kent on Sunday, the Saturday Observer, and our new midweek titles and associated websites, has vacancies for a

Sub-editor

We are currently looking for a sub-editor for maternity leave cover. Candidates must have excellent QuarkXpress skills and be competent at using Photoshop.

You will be able to spot a typo at 100 paces and be able to write attention-grabbing headlines.

• To apply, send a CV and covering letter to: Dave Hobday, Head of Subbing or email dave.hobday@kosmedia.co.uk.



Award winning publications
www.kentnews.co.uk

KOS Media
Apple Barn,
Hythe Road, Smeeth
Kent TN25 6SR

Porsche Centre Tonbridge

Saturday Receptionist/Meeter Greeter Saturday 8-5pm

We are currently looking for an enthusiastic and friendly individual to work with our sales team on Saturdays to welcome and manage customers for their demonstration drives. Excellent administration and organisational skills are required and, as a customer facing member of the team, you will need to be of smart appearance. This is a junior role, as such previous experience in a similar role would be an advantage but it is not essential. Full training will be provided. Applicants must be in possession of a full, clean driving licence and over 21 (for insurance purposes). Applications close 14 April 2008.

To apply for this position, please send your CV to Louise Mitchell, Porsche Centre Tonbridge, Brook Farm, Five Oak Green Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0QN or email louise.mitchell@porschetonbridge.co.uk



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Everyone has an opinion. Could you help us collect them?

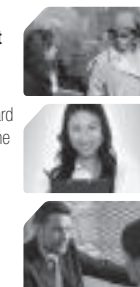
TNS is one of the world's leading market research companies and is now recruiting both new and experienced interviewers in order to expand its fieldforce.

Are you free to work at different times of the day (including evening and weekend hours) for at least the equivalent of three days a week?

You'll be talking to people in their homes about a variety of subjects. You'll be a skilled communicator with a good standard of written and spoken English. A landline telephone, your own transport, or access to public transport, are needed. Contact us NOW for further details!

How to apply:

Call our recruitment line on
020 8967 4593 or email
TNSFieldLimited@tns-global.com
quoting ref: FB01. Selection days will be held in your local area.



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ASSISTANT
Required 2/3 hours x 2
- 4 days a week
including weekends.
Must be honest,
reliable & thorough -
possible job share.
Please contact Diane
on 01304 204033

DOMESTIC

JOB TITLE:

Decorators Required

LOCATION: Maidstone

SALARY: Price Work

COMPANY: ADH

Decorators required, price work. Fully experienced only

TO APPLY:

David, ADH, Tel: 07765 282 597

Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

CURRENTLY RECRUITING HEALTH CARE ASSISTANTS/SUPPORT WORKERS/ REGISTERED NURSES

Initial work available in Maidstone & Tonbridge areas.

Bayada Nurses is a Nursing and Domiciliary Care Agency who specialize in home care services.

This involves short visits to people in their own homes, suitable candidates must be able to drive and have transport.

We also supply staff to both nursing/care homes and hospitals. Non drivers may be considered for these assignments.

We support our care staff to achieve NVQ qualifications.

If you are over 18 and feel you could make a difference and are committed to a career in care then we would like to hear from you.

For further details and to arrange an interview please call
Julie Epsley Free on 0800 084 2200 (9.00am - 10.00pm)

Email: info@bayada.co.uk

www.bayada.co.uk

These positions are subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure

MOULD MAKER required

WHO ARE WE?

A small, well established factory based in Strood, producing high quality reconstituted stonework for the restoration industry. Often making stonework for use on famous / prestigious buildings in London and other large cities.

WHO ARE YOU?

The ability to work to a very high degree of accuracy is essential. Timber is the material most commonly used, however other materials are also used such as GRP, metal, plaster, rubber and plastic. You will need to have experience of working with a range of workshop tools and to have some creative ability. Good interpersonal skills and the ability to work unsupervised will be required.

DETAILS

Full time job after initial trial period. 40 Hrs per week plus overtime (time and a half) as required. 4 weeks holiday plus bank holidays per year. £17K - £22K depending on experience and ability.

CV's and enquires to Anthony Jones, Kent Balusters,
1 Gravesend Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3PH
Telephone: 01634 711617

Fax: 01634 714644 E-mail: info@kentbalusters.co.uk



Assistant Manager New Enterprise Coaches

New Enterprise Coaches is part of Arriva Southern Counties which has a fleet of 650 vehicles and employs some 1800 staff in serving customers in the Essex, Sussex, Surrey and Kent areas.

New Enterprise Coaches operates private hires, excursions, London Express and tendered bus work and has been successful in winning a new easyBus contract, for an initial 3 year period, in providing a mini coach service between Gatwick - London.

Owing to this expansion and the necessity to closely manage our diverse and developing operations from both the Tonbridge and Gatwick site, a new opportunity has arisen for the post of Assistant Manager.

Reporting to the General Manager, the successful candidate will ideally hold a PCV licence and be able to demonstrate clear experience in delivering a quality service in a cost effective manner. A thorough understanding of driver's hours rules, along with a sound knowledge of the local private hire and contract market, is desirable.

Other key responsibilities in this new role will include:

- Liaising with the management team of easyBus and other key customers
- Managing and motivating drivers at both sites to provide reliable, high quality services
- Planning driver coverage
- Driver recruitment and discipline
- Developing private hire business and excursion/tour programmes
- Assisting with mileage recording, tachograph records, pay records and other administration
- Deputising for the General Manager as necessary

This demanding and exciting new role will offer the successful applicant:

- A salary of up to £25K
- 4 weeks annual holiday plus bank holidays
- Great career prospects

If you are interested in applying for this challenging role then please forward your CV along with a covering letter to: Heath Williams, Managing Director, Arriva Southern Counties, Invicta House, Armstrong Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6TX or by e-mail at williamsh.sc@arriva.co.uk

Closing date for applications is Monday 14th April 2008.

Arriva is committed to diversity. If you're good, you're welcome.

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Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.ukOnline: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

Community Training and Education Officer (Valley of Visions)

Starting salary £22,825, with progression through contribution related pay to £26,159 pro rata 22.2 hours per week - Fixed Term to November 2010 initially
The Cedars, Snodland

Do you enjoy working with people, have a passion for conserving and celebrating the countryside, and also enjoy a challenge? Then you may have the mix of skills we are looking for. Why not be a part of the Valley of Visions? This is an exciting opportunity to join a new team that is making a real difference in the Medway Gap, a place of dramatic contrasts lying within and beside the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

We have the funding and local support in place to deliver an ambitious project that takes an integrated and sustainable approach to landscape, access and heritage management. With a budget of £2.5m over three years provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund and others, this is a well-resourced and planned scheme.

You will be responsible for a budget of over £130,000, and will implement the training plan - a cross-cutting programme of training and educational activities. These will improve the capacity of the local communities, partnership organisations and the Valley of Visions team itself to conserve, enhance and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the valley.

All officers employed by the Valley of Visions Landscape Partnership Scheme work across programmes to support other team members and ensure integration of projects. The team works as part of the Kent Downs AONB Unit and you will be employed by Kent County Council. Ref: ER/o8/0072

Closing date: Midday, 18th April 2008.

Marketing and Development Adviser

Starting salary £20,061, with progression through contribution related pay to £22,825 per annum
Mid/West Kent

KEY Training Services, part of Kent County Council, is the largest work-based learning provider in the county. Operating across Kent (and delivering workplace training county-wide) we work hand-in-hand with businesses and their employees to provide them with the skills they need. As part of our continued development, we are now expanding our employer engagement - and it will be up to you to market and sell the benefits of Work Based Learning to employers.

Within this innovative environment, you will spend much of your time out visiting local employers - building strong working relationships with them and explaining our courses and services. Clearly this means that you will need excellent presentation skills and a very proactive approach. You should also have experience in a business-to-business sales role, a flair for hitting deadlines and targets, and the ability to generate new leads. Ref: CD/o8/0091

Closing date: Midday, 24th April 2008.

The above two posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

PA/Business Support Officer

Starting salary £16,627, with progression through contribution related pay to £18,288 per annum
Maidstone

We are looking for an individual who has the skills and experience to support the Head of Arts Development Unit and the rest of the team in addressing the challenges facing the Unit in 2008 and beyond.

Experience of working as a PA and knowledge of local government in Kent are essential.

For an informal chat about this post, telephone Sally Staples, Head of Arts Development Unit on 01622 696515. Ref: CD/o8/0031

Closing date: Midday, 18th April 2008.

Interview date: 9th May 2008.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote appropriate reference number.



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Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Section Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Environmental Conservation

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum
Post ref: 08/08/KOS

The Faculty of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care is looking for someone to lead and manage a team of dedicated professionals, committed to helping Canterbury College becoming one of the best FE colleges in the country by 2010.

Reporting to the Head of Faculty, you will be responsible for the development and delivery of a curriculum portfolio which meets the present and future needs of students, employers and communities in Kent and beyond.

You will have a commitment to excellence and a focus on delivery, together with an up to date knowledge of the land-based FE curriculum and key national developments.

For an application pack please visit www.cam-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is Friday 18 April at 12 noon. Interviews will be held on Wednesday 7 May.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

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Discover your Potential

Mid-Kent College is one of the largest providers of Further Education in Kent with over 12,000 students, 800 staff and an income in excess of £27m.

Located at four sites in Maidstone, Chatham and Rochester we will open our new £82 million campus to students in September 2009.

Trustee for new park in Gillingham

A new park is being built off Medway Road, Gillingham. The park will be owned and operated by an independent trust. We are now seeking one trustee from local residents. The successful applicant will have experience of working on a voluntary or elected body; a strong commitment to the local area and an enthusiasm for heritage and/or ecological issues.

The closing date for applications is 18th April 2008.

For more information, please contact Jane Jones on 01634 884399 or jane.jones@midkent.ac.uk.

 **MIDKent COLLEGE**
an associate college of the UNIVERSITY OF KENT

 **Spires**

Twin Specialisms
Business & Enterprise and
Visual & Performing Arts

NOR 291

Principal: Ian Johnson

Visual and Performing Arts Support Technician
Kent Scheme 3
(£13,959 -£15,826 pro rata)
8.30 – 4.30 Mon – Fri Term Time plus five days
Occasional evening hours may be required
To begin as soon as possible
Applications are invited for the post of Visual and Performing Arts Support Technician

We are looking for an energetic and dynamic person to work right across the thriving and expanding Faculty of Visual and Performing Arts. The successful candidate will support teaching staff in Photography, Animation, Art & Design and Performing Arts lessons as well as working with pupils in the classroom so a background in the Arts is essential.

The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.

Further details are available on our web site: www.spiresacademy.com

To apply for this position please forward a letter of application together with a CV by email to: m.wingington@spiresacademy.com

Closing date: Friday 11th April 2008 at noon
Interview date: Monday 21st April 2008

Make a difference.
Foster carers wanted for dynamic new service

The Caldecott Foundation is launching a new fostering service in response to requests from numerous local authorities.

The service is part of a multi-disciplinary framework which offers support and training from the Foundation's existing range of professional services including the Caldecott School, therapy centre, psychology service and learning and development centre.

You will be highly motivated, enjoy life, and be dedicated to providing the very best standards of care to vulnerable children who have experienced extreme trauma and disruption in their lives.

Contact Jamie Bromfield or Erica Eversfield to register your interest on 01303 815648 or email fostering@caldecottfoundation.co.uk

You will receive a comprehensive package of support and training reflecting the demands of the role you will undertake, and very competitive rates of pay.



www.caldecottfoundation.co.uk

The Caldecott Foundation Helping children build a future
Reg. charity no: 307388

The University of Greenwich at Medway

PART TIME ICT OFFICER
(FIXED TERM)

Ref: 00937/K3

Information and Library Services is seeking an experienced customer focussed ICT professional to join the User Services Team of the ICT Department.

Reporting to the Campus Team Leader, the post involves providing support and advice to all members of the University for a wide range of ICT systems and services. You will be experienced at working in an operational ICT support role, dealing with desktop PCs in a networked environment, ideally with good audio visual experience and knowledge of troubleshooting and use of Microsoft and Novell products.

There will be a requirement to attend out of normal working hours where the operational needs of the University requires this. There will also be a need from time to time to travel to other sites of the University.

Hours of work are 17.5 per week.

This post is fixed term for 3 years.

Salary is pro rata to £23,002 - £27,486 per annum

We aim to be an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

To obtain further particulars and an application form visit our website www.gre.ac.uk, email: jobs@gre.ac.uk or write to the Personnel Office, University of Greenwich, Avery Hill Road, London, SE9 2UG quoting the job reference. Applications should be returned by 5pm on 18 April 2008.



To advertise in this section

 **01303 817040**

With campuses in Ashford, Folkestone and Dover, South Kent College offers a wide-range of courses from Entry Level to Level 7 and caters for over 15,000 students of all ages. As a Further and Higher Education College, we are the largest education institution in Kent. We currently have the following vacancies:

KCC Tutor - Nursing
Folkestone
Variable contract

Ref: T1319

You will create and deliver a range of short courses (3-6 hours in duration) on the KCC Care Project across a variety of locations. This will include courses on Dementia, Diabetes, Parkinsons Disease, Palliative Care, Medication and Health Care procedures, Infection prevention and control and Loss, Grief and Bereavement.

Pastoral Tutor
Folkestone
18.5 hours per week

Ref: S2125

'Putting Learners First' To ensure this happens the College appointed a pool of dedicated Pastoral Tutors whose main function is to remove all barriers to learning and success. They focus on the needs of their tutees enhancing the learner experience and be instrumental in their personal development.

New Start Learning Advocates x 2
Ashford
26 hours per week - term-time only

Ref: S2124

You will provide assistance with the learning experiences of students within the New Start Centre ensuring they participate fully in the learning experience available to them through their course of study. You will be required to assist students with reading, writing or verbal communication as circumstances demand.

The closing date for receipt of all completed application forms is Monday 21st April 2008.

For further information, including salary details and an application pack for the above vacancy, please contact the Human Resources Department on either 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.

 **South Kent College**
ASHFORD • DOVER • FOLKESTONE

King's Farm Primary School and Nursery

PARENT SUPPORT WORKER

Full-Time post to include some school holiday hours
Grade Kent Scheme 5 (£16,221 - £17,842)

Please apply in writing direct to the school. Candidate would need to be committed to multi-agency working and ready to build on the well established extended school services.

Mrs S Garner, Headteacher
King's Farm Primary School & Nursery
Cedar Avenue, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5JT

 **Calling all Instructors**

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SALES MANAGER
Hastings Area

A motivated and experienced Sales Manager is required for high profile independent school near Hastings.


Presentation and interpersonal skills must be of the highest calibre for this role which will make you the 'face of the school' as you will be the first point of call for prospective parents, educational consultants and other visitors. You will need to be able to market the school effectively whilst empathising with parents. Personality is key to this role and is as important as your marketing skills, thus this job would suit a motivated graduate as well as a seasoned professional.

Travel will be an essential part of this role, with 4 or 5 foreign trips a year required, visiting educational consultants, educational fairs and potential parents and students. In return you will find the role challenging, rewarding and motivating working with a team of dedicated staff in a beautiful Sussex setting.

We will pay £28,000 to £35,000 depending on experience, plus bonuses and incentives.

Please respond with cv and covering letter to: admin@buckswood.co.uk.

If you are shortlisted we will invite you for an interview in the very near future.

 **TEACHING ASSISTANT/ MIDDAY SUPERVISOR**

Hours: 25 hours per week (15 hours with one pupil and 10 hours general classroom and some lunch duties) term time only.

Pay: KS3 point 7 – 11
£13,619 to £15,440 pro rata

We are looking for an enthusiastic Teaching Assistant/midday supervisor who has an NVQ2 in a child related area, to join our committed and highly effective team for 25 hours per week during term time only. This will involve working one to one with a statemented child for part of the time, plus general classroom TA duties and include some lunch-time supervision.

For an information pack, application form or an informal visit to the school, please contact Mrs Liz Steele, PA to the Headteacher, Victoria Road Primary School, Victoria Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 7HQ
Tel: 01233 620044
school@victoria-road.kent.sch.uk

Closing date: 1st May 2008
Interviews: 8th May 2008
Start Date: As soon as possible.

Appointment to this position will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check.



NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ
Tel: 0844 477 25252

We are seeking to appoint
Full Time CARETAKER
Kent Scheme Grade 4 - £15,440 p.a.

Alternating shift pattern 6.50 am to 2.45 pm/1.35 pm to 9.30 pm

Monday to Friday each week
Opportunities for overtime (including weekends) to support school events

We require a caretaker with a flexible and pro-active approach to join our existing team with duties covering security, heating, lighting, maintenance, minor repairs, decoration, cleaning, health and safety, porterage and general duties of a kind associated with a school.

The position will involve driving the school minibus and be subject to full CRB and Occupational Health checks.

Application by letter with CV, including the names and contact details of two referees to Mrs T Davies, School Business Manager as above or by email to personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk.

Closing date for applications: Monday, 21 April 2008

HILDERSTONE COLLEGE BROADSTAIRS

**Learning Resources
Organiser**

Hilderstone runs quality English language courses for overseas students. A vacancy exists from 16 June for someone to supervise the College Self-Access Learning Centre.

Would suit graduate with experience of similar work, good library/IT skills, and familiar with computers for world-wide communication. Excellent presentation/communication skills required.

Details/application form can be downloaded from the College website: www.hilderstone.ac.uk/site/vacancies and sent to Recruitment, Hilderstone College, St Peters Road, Broadstairs CT10 2JW (alisonh@hilderstone.ac.uk) by 11th April 2008.

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Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Media and Public Relations Officer

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,775 per annum
Post Ref: 08/32/KOS

Higher Education Curriculum Mentor

37 hrs per week, 38 wks per year term time.
Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum
Fixed-term post for two years or up until 31st July 2010
Post Ref: 08/34/KOS

Head Chef

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum
Post Ref: HC1/KOS

Trainer Demonstrator Hospitality and Catering

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: 08/37/KOS

Learning Resources Centre Co-ordinator

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum
Post Ref: 07/03/KOS

Temporary Enrolment Records Assistant

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum.
Temporary posts commencing 1 June 2008 and ending on 31 October 2008
Post Ref: TERA (1-4)/KOS

Curriculum Support Assistant Construction

18.5 hrs per week, 36 weeks per year term time.
Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: 06/201/KOS

Catering Assistant

16 hrs per week, 36 weeks per year term time.
Salary £11,801 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: CA6/KOS

Supply NVQ Assessors required in the following areas:

Early Years

Post Ref: NVQ/EY/KOS

Play work

Post Ref: NVQ/PW/KOS

Various hours available, salary range £17,727- £25,418 pro rata per annum

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 21 April at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

IMPROVING PROSPECTS. ACHIEVING RESULTS



We are one of the most successful colleges in the south east region providing further and higher education. We are committed to improving the diversity of our staff by offering a wide range of opportunities including apprenticeships, flexible working and full and part-time positions. Why not look at what we can offer you.

**Learning Support Assistants –
Alternative Curriculum**

£12,843 – £14,776 pa

Term-time only • Job Share Possible

We have a well-established alternative curriculum programme that offers quality provision for students who have been permanently excluded from school. You will join a strong and dedicated team providing pastoral and classroom support in vocational programmes as well as basic skills.

This is an opportunity to make a real difference. Experience of the support needs of young people with barriers to learning – or other emotional and behavioural difficulties – is essential. You'll be capable of responding quickly and calmly to a variety of situations and needs. Good interpersonal and communication skills are vital. Your own education should be to GCSE standard or City & Guilds Learning Support NVQ 2 and you should be competent in the use of information technology.

All posts will require a Criminal Record Bureau Enhanced Disclosure Certificate.

The benefits in joining us are immense: flexible working benefits; full support including an on-site nursery; final salary pension; private health plan; Health & Fitness suite and more.

For further details, a job description and an application form, please contact the HR department on 01732 376511 or email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk

Closing date: noon, 17 April 2008.



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To advertise in this section 01303 817040

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Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Head of Quality and Standards

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £40,821 per annum
Post Ref: 08/35/KOS

Canterbury College is aiming to be the best in teaching and learning by 2010. An exciting opportunity has arisen to take on this key role in the College to drive this further forward. As Head of Quality and Standards you will be responsible for all quality review and improvement processes together with taking forward local, national and government quality initiatives with the ultimate aim being to further enhance the quality of the teaching and learning experience thereby ensuring success for all students at Canterbury College.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 21 April at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

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Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Section Manager Construction Crafts

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum.
Post Ref: 08/12/KOS

Higher Education Lecturer in Building Surveying

9.25 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: 07/28/KOS

HE Supply Lecturers are required to teach across HNC, HND, Foundation and Honours Degree programmes in the following areas:

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
HNC in Building Surveying
Foundation Degree in Early Years Studies
BA (Hons) in Health and Social Care Management
HND in Health and Social Care
FD in Counselling*
FD in Care Management*
HND and FD in Retail Management

* subject to validation

Please specify your area/s of expertise in your application form
Post Ref: S/HE/KOS

Supply Lecturers Key Skills in Communications, ICT & Application of Number are required to teach across the areas of Health, Public Services and Early Years

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: S/KS/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 21 April at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

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Hadlow College is Kent's premier land-based college and one of the top three such colleges in the United Kingdom.

The College lies in a picturesque part of West Kent, with a 256 hectare campus boasting an enviable array of facilities to enable students to maximise learning and gain realistic experience of the workplace for their future careers.

A £55 million capital project is planned over the next 2 years, aimed at building the best facilities of their kind in the County.

Lecturer, Horticulture

£21,762 to £29,337 per annum

We are looking to recruit a highly motivated and enthusiastic Lecturer, who will be required to teach and give practical instruction to full and part-time students across a wide range of Higher and Further Education courses including the Royal Horticultural Society qualifications. The successful candidate will need to be educated to degree level and have practical experience in the horticulture industry.

In addition to the minimum requirements detailed above, candidates will ideally have teaching experience in a practical and/or classroom setting together with a teaching qualification or the willingness to work towards one. Candidates will also need to be adaptable, resourceful and resilient, have excellent communication and IT skills and the ability to work well as part of a team.

The successful candidate will also need to be flexible, as the full-time hours will include teaching some evening classes and travelling to our satellite centres.

As well as contributory pension scheme, sponsorship for further vocational training and free car parking, this post also attracts 35 days holiday each year (excluding bank holidays).

To receive an information pack and application form please telephone the Human Resources Department on 01732 850551 or e-mail us at jobs@hadlow.ac.uk.

Closing date is Monday, 21st April 2008.

Interviews will be held on Friday, 2nd May 2008.

Visit Hadlow College at www.hadlow.ac.uk

Hadlow College is a committed equal opportunities employer.

achievement

development

experience

employability

Sheppey College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Lecturer Cross-College Key Skills

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: 08/36/KOS

Senior Learning Resources Officer

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,775 per annum
Post Ref: S3/KOS

Hair & Beauty Receptionist

18.5 hrs per week, 40 weeks per year term time.
Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: 08/17/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 21 April at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Staff Discount Scheme

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MEDWAY TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Burnt Oak Primary School

KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 12 May 2008
To apply/more information
Gill Perry, Headteacher
Burnt Oak Primary School
Cornwall Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 1LP
Telephone - (01634) 852991
Fax - 01634 571283
Email office@burntoak.medway.sch.uk

Fairview Community Primary School

Foundation Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and fixed term
Term of contract: 1 Year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Diana Parker, Office Manager
Fairview Community Primary School
Drewery Drive, Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Telephone - (01634) 338710
Email
office@fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Fairview Community Primary School

Year 3
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and fixed term
Term of contract: 1 Year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Diana Parker
Office Manager
Fairview Community Primary School
Drewery Drive, Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Telephone - (01634) 338710
Email
office@fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Gordon Junior School

KS2 Teacher (Responsibility for Literacy)
Salary: MPS + TLR 2b - £3940
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 13 May 2008
To apply/more information
Ellen Wilson
Headteacher
Gordon Road, Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 3HQ
Telephone - (01634) 719971
Fax - 01634 290337
Email headteacher@gordon-jun.medway.sch.uk

High Halstow Primary School

KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Temporary
Term of contract: 1 Year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 22 April 2008
To apply/more information
Pat Sanford
Headteacher
Harrison Drive
High Halstow
Rochester
Kent ME3 8TF
Telephone - (01634) 251098
Fax - 01634 255626
Email headteacher@highhalstow.medway.sch.uk

Luton Junior School

Class Teacher and Subject Leader for Music
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 24 April 2008

To apply/more information

Sheila Scott, Luton Junior School
Luton Road
Chatham
Kent ME4 5AW
Telephone - (01634) 844149
Fax - 01634 843582
Email scottss001@medway.org.uk

The Pilgrim School

KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs D Field
Office Manager
The Pilgrim School
Warwick Crescent, Borsal
Rochester
Kent ME1 3LF
Telephone - (01634) 841873
Email office@pilgrim.medway.sch.uk

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Greenacre School

Teacher of PE
Full Time and permanent
Salary: MPS/UPS
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 30 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr A J Reese, Headteacher
Greenacre School
Bradfields Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861593
E-mail office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk

Medway Community College

Teacher of English
Salary: MPS/UPS
Required From: 1 September 2008 or earlier
Closing date: 25 April 2008
To apply/more information
Katharine Pringle/Julie Jones
Teacher Recruitment Team
Medway Council
Civic Centre
Strood
Kent ME2 4AU
Telephone - (01634) 331292
Email teaching@medway.gov.uk

Medway Community College

Mathematics Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 25 April 2008
To apply/more information
Katharine Pringle/Julie Jones
Teacher Recruitment Team
Medway Council, Civic Centre
Strood
Kent ME2 4AU
Telephone - (01634) 331292
Email teaching@medway.gov.uk

St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School

Teacher of Law
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr D Kelly, Headteacher
St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
Ordinance Street
Chatham
Kent ME4 6DP
Telephone - (01634) 842811
Email headteacher@st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk

New Brompton College

Teacher of Drama
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 21 April 2008

To apply/more information

Sue Moss, Personnel Manager
New Brompton College
Marlborough Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 5HT
Tel: 01634 852341
Email: suemoss@nbc.medway.sch.uk

New Brompton College

Teacher of Dance
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 21 April 2008
To apply/more information
Sue Moss
Personnel Manager
New Brompton College
Marlborough Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 5HT
Telephone - (01634) 852341
Email suemoss@nbc.medway.sch.uk

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School

Teacher of Mathematics
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Crutenden
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School

Teacher of Science
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Crutenden
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

Assistant Faculty Leader

St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School

Assistant Faculty Leader of Religious Education
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2c (£2,364)
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr D Kelly, Headteacher
St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
Ordinance Street
Chatham
Kent ME4 6DP
Telephone - (01634) 842811
Email headteacher@st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk

Head of Department

Greenacre School

Subject Leader in English
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1b (£9,981)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 30 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr A J Reese, Headteacher
Greenacre School
(A Specialist Sports College)
Bradfields Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861593
Fax - 01634 869246
Email office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk

Chatham South School

Head of ICT
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2c
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 21 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Maureen Chipperfield
Office Manager
Chatham South School
Letchworth Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME4 6NT
Telephone - (01634) 404277
Email Headteacher@chathamssouth.medway.sch.uk

Walderslade Girls School

Head of Business Studies
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2B
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Walderslade Girls School
Bradfields Avenue
Walderslade
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861596
Email Headteacher@waldersladelgirls.medway.sch.uk

Deputy Headteacher / Curriculum Manager

Walderslade Girls School

Salary: L16 - L20
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 1 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs P Conibee
Headteacher
Walderslade Girls School
Bradfields Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861596
Fax - 01634 869246
Email headteacher@waldersladelgirls.medway.sch.uk

Curriculum Leader

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive

Curriculum leader - Science
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1b (£9,981)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Crutenden
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

Assistant Curriculum Leader

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive

Assistant Curriculum leader (Technology)
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2c (£2,364)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Crutenden
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

KANTH INDUSTRIES LIMITED

(Company Number 04395420)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the Company will be held at the offices of Moore Stephens LLP, Victory House, Admiralty Place, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4QU, on Tuesday 22 April 2008, at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

Resolutions to be taken at the Meeting may include a Resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated, and the Meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the Meeting. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at Victory House, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4QU, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day preceding the meeting. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge a statement at Victory House, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4QU before the meeting, giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.

Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Victory House, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4QU between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
Kuldip Kanth, Director
Date: 28 March 2008

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar General being satisfied that Living Waters Church, George Street, Maidstone in the registration district of Kent is no longer used as a place of worship, has cancelled the registration for marriages in accordance with the Marriage Act 1949.

Alyson Jones for the Registrar General
27 February 2008.

JACKWOOD PETS AND AQUATICS LIMITED

(Company Number 0991686)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, on 23 April 2008, at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Proxy forms to be used for the purposes of the above Meeting must be lodged, accompanied by statements of claim, at the registered office of the Company situated at Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day prior to the date of the Meeting. Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Nedim Aylan and Andrew Tate, of Abbott Fielding, Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, are qualified to act as Insolvency Practitioners in relation to the above Company, and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated: 25 March 2008
By Order of the Board
Toby J Dadsell, Chairman

To advertise
in this section
**01303
817040**

Martin Lee Callaghan has submitted to Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PU - www.Dover.gov.uk an application to vary a premises licence to change opening times, sell alcohol (no later than 00:30hrs), and late night refreshment

Opening:	Sun- Thursday 09:00-00:00
	Fri & Sat 09:00-01:00
Alcohol:	Sun- Thursday 09:00-23:30
	Fri & Sat 09:00-00:30
Late Night Refreshment	Sun-Thursday 09:00-00:00
	Fri & Sat 09:00-01:00

At The Court Yard, Number 1&2 The Old Coach House, Sondes Road, Deal, Kent, CT14 7BW. This application may be inspected at the Council offices during normal office hours. Representations must be in writing and submitted to the Council by 1 May 2008. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application. The maximum fine for this offence is £5000.

LGS.uk - Licensing Agents - www.LGS.uk.com

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:

Name of Premises: The Tithe Barn, Court Lodge Farm, Lenham, Maidstone
Applicant: Ms Valerie Woolven

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Martin Alford
Head of Registration, Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



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Highways – District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BREDLANDS LANE, WESTBERE, NR CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because new water main works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Bredlands Lane, Westbere, Nr. Canterbury from its junction with Hoath Road for a distance of 50 metres in a south easterly Direction on 7 April 2008 for an estimated period of 2 Weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Island Road, Staines Hill, Babs Oak Hill and Hoath Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (RIDGEWAY CLIFF, HERNE BAY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because various craning activities works are proposed to be carried out, for up to 3 or 4 occasions between April and September, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Ridgeway Cliff, Herne Bay from its junction with Western Esplanade for up to 30 metres in a southerly direction on or after 21 April 2008 for an estimated period of 6 Months or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Western Esplanade, Victoria Drive and The Broadway.

Highways – Borough of Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL RED STREET, SOUTHFLEET (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Red Street, Southfleet between New Barn Road and Warren Road.

The Order will become effective on 7th April 2008, for a period of up to two days, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described will be via: New Barn Road, Station Road, Dale Road and Warren Road. Warren Road will be one way to allow traffic to travel from Dale Road to New Barn Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate pipe laying works across the carriageway by Thames Water.

Highways – Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL WROTHAM ROAD GRAVESEND/NORTHFLEET, COLDHARBOUR ROAD, NORTHFLEET, HOG LANE AND DOWNS ROAD, NORTHFLEET (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Hog Lane and Downs Road. This Order will also restrict traffic to traveling at a speed not exceeding 30 m.p.h on Wrotham Road, Gravesend/Northfleet between a point 400, south of the roundabout at the junction with the access road to the westbound carriageway of A2 northwards to a point in line with the northern boundary of 350 and on Coldharbour Road, Northfleet from its junction with Wrotham Road for a distance of 150 metres in a westerly direction.

The Order will become effective on 21st April 2008, for a period of up to 12 months, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place. Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Hall Road and New Barn Road.

The purpose of the Order is to support the works being undertaken on the A2.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL GRAVESHAM RESURFACING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 (2) THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads as noted in Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 7th April 2008, for various periods as noted in the attached schedule, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described will be as described in the attached schedule.

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate the resurfacing of the carriageway.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

Schedule 1

Road Name	Location	Dates	Diversion
Crete Hall Road, Northfleet	Between Clifton Marine Parade and Resherville Way	9th to 15th April 2008 between 9pm and 4am	Rosherville Way, Thames Way, Overcliffe, Bath Street, West Street, Thames Way, Clifton Marine Parade
Stonebridge Road, Northfleet	College Road to Thames Way	17th and 18th May 2008 7am and 4pm	Thames Way, London Road, The Hill, High Street, Northfleet
Darnley Road, Gravesend	Between Pelham Road and Arthur Street West	18th through to 21st April 2008 between 7am and 4pm	Arthur Street West, Pelham Road
Arthur Street, Gravesend	Full Length	21st and 22nd April 2008 between 7am and 4pm	Darnley Road, Cobham Street
Dashwood Road, Gravesend	Full Length	23rd, 24th, 25th, 28th, 29th April 2008 7am and 4pm	Old Road West, Wrotham Road, New House Lane
New Road, Meopham	Full Length	29th and 30th April 2008 between 7am and 4pm	Orchard Drive, Johns Road, Wrotham Road,

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL GRAVESHAM RESURFACING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 (3) THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads as noted in Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 7th April 2008, for various periods as noted in the attached schedule, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place. The dates of works will be announced on site at least 7 days in advance of commencement.

The alternative routes for the routes described will be as described in the attached schedule.

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate the resurfacing of the carriageway.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

Schedule 1

Road Name	Location	Diversion
Clarence Road, Gravesend	From its junction with Windmill Street to the T Junction	None
Denton Court Road, Gravesend	From its junction with Rochester Road to the end	None
Elm Road, Gravesend	From Kitchener Avenue to Kings Drive	Kings Drive and Kitchener Avenue
Mackenzie Way, Gravesend	From Valley Drive to Ifield Way	Valley Drive and Ifield Way
Parrock Road/ Parrock Street, Gravesend	From Old Road East to Wellington Street	Old Road East, Windmill street, Lord Street, Stone Street, Clive Road, Barrack Row, Darnley Road, Bath Street, West Street, Crooked Lane, The Terrace, Harmer Street, Berkeley Crescent and Milton Road
High View, Higham	School Lane to End	None
Chabblers Road, Meopham	From Dean Lane to Priestwood Road	Priestwood Road, Harvel Street and Dean Lane
Denesway, Meopham	From Tradescant Drive to Wrotham Road	Wrotham Road, Green Lane, Tradescant Drive
Station Road, Meopham	From Wrotham Road to end	None

Highways – Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS IN MAIDSTONE) (ROAD CLOSURE) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008

NOTICE is hereby given that to allow highway maintenance works to take place the Kent County Council intends to make Order prohibiting the use by traffic on the routes described in column 1 of the Schedule hereto on or after 1st May 2008 for an estimated period of one week or for a period not exceeding 18 months.

The alternative for each route described in column 1 of the Schedule hereto is described in column 2 of that Schedule.

THE SCHEDULE

B2162 Benover Road/Yalding Road, Collier Street/Yalding from its junction with Claygate Road to its junction with	Yalding Road, Green Lane, Underlyn Lane, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst Road, Linton Hill, Heath Road, Lyngs Road. Ewell Lane, Smiths Hill, Yalding Hill, High Street.
B2163 Penfold Hill, Leeds from its junction Ashford Road A20 to its junction Burberry Lane.	Lower Street, Upper Street, Leeds Road, A274 Sutton Road, Willington Street and A20 Ashford Road.
Hook Lane, Harrietsham from its junction Ashford Road to its junction with West Street.	Ashford Road and West Street.
Church Road, Harrietsham from its junction East Street to its junction with Ashford Road.	East Street and Ashford Road.
School Lane, Platts Heath for its entire length.	Headcom Road and Lenham Road.
Busbridge Road, Tovil/Loose from its junction with New Cut to its junction with Well Road.	New Cut, Stockett Lane, Forstal Lane and Well Road.
Chain Gate Road (Park Road), Platts Heath from its junction with Headcom Road to its junction with Lenham Road.	Headcom Road and Lenham Road.
Forge Lane, Leeds from its junction with Old Mill Road to its junction with Caring Lane.	Old Mill Lane, Upper Street, Horseshoes Lane and Back Street.

Advance road works information boards will be placed prior to works commencing on site, giving details as to when works are scheduled to commence and expected duration. Each closure is not expected to last more than one day

Order will only be effective when the appropriate signs are displayed.

Highways – District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SEVENOAKS RESURFACING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 (2) THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads as noted in Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 7th April 2008, for various periods as noted in the attached schedule, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described will be as described in the attached schedule.

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate the resurfacing of the carriageway.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

Schedule 1

Road Name	Location	Dates	Diversion
A20 London Road, Farningham	Between A225 Dartford Road and Teardrop Centre Roundabout	12th April at 7am to 14th April at 5am	London Road, High Street, London Road, Swanley Lane, Main Road, Top Dartford Road, Barn End Lane, High Road, Church Hill, Hawley Road, Main, Dartford Road
Pilgrims Way West, Dutton Green	Between Ivy House Lane and Bridge over M25	12th and 13th May between 7am and 5pm	London Road, A25 London Road, A25 Maidstone Road, Bradbourne Vale Road, Otford Road, Sevenoaks Road,

Wheatshaf Hill, Halstead	Full Length	14th May 2008 between 7am and 5pm	Old London Road, A224 Orpington Bypass
Scotts Way, Riverhead	Full Length	15th May 2008 between 7am and 5pm	No Suitable Diversion
Lullingstone Avenue, Swanley	Between New Road and Swanley Lane	16th May 2008 between 7am to 5pm	Swanley Lane, NewRoad
Holly Tree Avenue, Swanley	Full Length	19th through to 21st May 2008 between 7am and 5:30pm	Sycamore Drive, Northview, Hilda May Avenue
New Barn Road, Swanley	Full Length	20th through to 23rd May 2008 between 7am and 5pm	Main Road, College Road

Highways – District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HORN STREET, HYTHE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because new water mains works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Horn Street, Hythe from as described in column 2 of schedule to this order on or after 7 April 2008 for an estimated period of 18 Weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for each phase as described in column 2 of the schedule to this order is described in column 3 of that schedule.

Specified Road	length of road affected	alternative routes
Phase 1		
Horn Street, Hythe	Between its junction with Seabrook Vale and its junction with Craythorne Close	Seabrook Road, Sandgate Esplanade, Sandgate High Street, Military Road and either Risborough Lane and Church Road or North Road, Royal Military Avenue and Church Road.
Phase 2		
Horn Street, Hythe	From its junction with Craythorne Close to its junction with Queens Avenue.	Seabrook Road, Sandgate Esplanade, Sandgate High Street, Military Road and either Risborough Lane and Church Road or North Road, Royal Military Avenue and Church Road.

Highways – Borough of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BUCKLAND CROSSING, LOWER ROAD, FAVERSHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Lower Road at the Buckland Crossing on or after Tuesday 22nd April 2008 for an estimated period of up to 1 day between the hours of 0020h and 0455h or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for westbound traffic is via Lower Road, Lower Norton Lane, A2 (London Road), Bysingwood Road and Lower road for eastbound visa versa.

Traffic Management Services Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which is necessary to perform essential maintenance to the crossing. Should you require any further information these works their contact is Miss R Day on 01474 544017.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WHITE HILL ROAD, HARTLIP) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on White Hill Road, Hartlip, between the junctions of Magpie Lane and Cox Street between the times of 0930hrs and 1500hrs on or after Monday 7th April 2008 when required for a period of up to 3 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for westbound traffic via Cox Street, Court Lane, Scragged Oak Road and for eastbound traffic vice versa.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by

**For further information, please contact Geoff Harrison-Mee,
Director for Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways**



these essential works, which are necessary to renew aerial cables in the area. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Tracy Zeal of A Plant Lux Traffic Control on 01666 822000.

Highways – District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DISTRICT OF THANET) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) (No. 4) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on the routes described in Column 1 of the Schedule 1 hereto. The alternative route for each route described in Column 1 is described in Column 2 of that Schedule on or after 7 April 2008 for an estimated period of 5 months or until the carriageway re-alignment works are complete, at such times and to such extent as shall be indicated by traffic signs.

The "The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Thanet) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2002" in respect of the lengths of road described in the Schedule 2 hereto and the Traffic Regulation Order that made Mansion Street, Margate one-way, which prohibits traffic from traveling in other than in a southerly direction as prescribed in the Order in respect of the length of Mansion Street, between Fort Hill and Fort Road will be temporarily suspended at such times as the traffic signs erected to indicate the effect of the Order on this road are covered or removed.

Schedule 1

(Prohibition of Driving)

Column 1	Column 2
The affected route	The alternative route
B2051 Fort Hill/The Parade/ Fort Crescent, Between Trinity Square and The High Street for an approximate Length of 460m	B2051 Fort Crescent, Zion Place, Northdown Road, Trinity Square, Trinity Hill, Hawley Street, Cecil Square, Queen Street, Marine Gardens and Marine Drive
The Parade (One-way section) Between Duke Street and King Street for an approximate Length of 60m	Market Street, Lombard Street, Hawley Street and King Street
King Street Between Fort Road and The Parade for an approximate Length of 60m	Broad Street, Love Lane, Hawley Street, Cecil Square, Queen Street, Marine Gardens, Marine Drive and The Parade
Fort Road From Fort Hill for an approximate Length of 50m	B2051 Fort Hill, Fort Crescent, Trinity Square, Trinity Hill, King Street and The Parade
Mansion Street From Fort Hill for an approximate Length of 30m	Fort Hill and Fort Road
The Rendezvous From Fort Hill for an approximate Length of 50m	No alternative route – Cul-de-sac

Schedule 2

(Suspension of One-Way Street)

Length of road	Direction to proceed (to be suspended)
Fort Road, Margate Between Fort Hill and King Street	North to South
King Street, Margate Between Fort Road and The Parade	East to West
The Parade, Margate Between Market Street and King Street	South-west to North-east

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROAD THANET) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because gas mains replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Road Thanet from as described in column 1 of the schedule of this order on or after 7 April 2007 for an estimated period of 2 Weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be as described in column 3 of the schedule to this order.

Road Name	Length of road	Alternative route
Addington Street	From the junction with Union Crescent to junction with Hawley Square.	Hawley Square, Cecil Street, Hawley Street, King Street.
Union Crescent	From the junction with Addington Street to junction with Cecil Street	Hawley Street, King Street, Dane Road, Victoria Road.

There will also be traffic signals at the junction of Addington Street and Addington Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WAY HILL, RAMSGATE) (ONE WAY TRAFFIC) ORDER 2008

NOTICE is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order has the following effect:-

WAY HILL – RAMSGATE to become one way north east bound (ie towards the junction with Thorne Hill/A299 Thanet Way) for a distance of 10 metres from the junction with A299 Thanet Way.

This Order is being promoted to prevent confusion and conflicts for road users at the junction of Thorne Hill/Way Hill and A299 which has a poor crash history.

The Order was made on 1 April 2008 and will come into force 7 April 2008.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury between 8.30am and 5pm.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

Highways – Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE STREET, RYARSH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on The Street, Ryarsh at its junctions with Woodgate Road, Workhouse Road and Roughetts Road.

The Order will become effective on 21st April 2008, for a period of up to 5 days, between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30 or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Chapel Street and Workhouse Road

Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the cleaning of BT Plant.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SANDY LANE, IGHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Sandy Lane, Igham between its junctions with Common Road and Coach Road.

The Order will become effective on 21st April 2008, for a period of up to 14 days, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Coach Road, Copt Hall Road and Common Road

The purpose of the closure is to construct a new connection to the sewer system.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

BUTCHERS LANE, MEREWORTH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Butchers Lane, Mereworth between its junctions with Beech Road and Willow Wents.

The Order will become effective on 21st April 2008, for a period of up to 14 days, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via:

For local traffic – Willow Wents, Seven Mile Lane and Beech Road.

For HGV's – A228 Malling Road, A26 Tonbridge Road and Seven Mile Lane.

Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The purpose of the closure is to construct a new water connection to the property numbered 171.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

HIGH STREET, WEST MALLING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008/9 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is taking place on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, West Malling between the entrance to the short stay car park and its junction with Swan Street.

The Order will become effective on 21st April 2008, for the dates as shown in schedule 1 between the hours of 6am and 2pm, or, until completion of the event. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place. Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: A228 Ashton Way, Azo London Road and Town Hill.

The purpose of the Order is to support the Farmers Markets taking place.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

Schedule 1

Date
Sunday 27th April 2008
Monday 26th May 2008
Sunday 22nd June 2008
Sunday 27th July 2008
Sunday 24th August 2008
Sunday 28th September 2008
Sunday 26th October 2008
Sunday 21st December 2008
Sunday 25th January 2009
Sunday 22nd February 2009
Sunday 22nd March 2009

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

TONBRIDGE & MALLING RESURFACING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 (2) THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads as noted in Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 7th April 2008, for various periods as noted in the attached schedule, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place. The dates of works will be announced on site at least 7 days in advance of commencement.

The alternative routes for the routes described will be as described in the attached schedule.

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate the resurfacing of the carriageway.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

Schedule 1

Road Name	Location	Diversion
Columbine Road, Larkfield	Between Lavender Road and Carnation Crescent	Lilac Green, Lavender Road, Columbine Crescent
Butchers Lane, Mereworth	Between Beech Road and Willow Wents	Willow Wents, Seven Mile Lane, Beech Road
Holborough Road, Snodland	Between High Street and Splitter Island	A228 Snodland Bypass, Malling Road and Rocford Road
Azo London Road, Aylesford	Between Hermitage Lane and the Bounds	To be Advised

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

ST MARYS ROAD, WROTHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on St Marys Road, Wrotham between its junctions with Borough Green Road and High Street.

The Order will become effective on 7th April 2008, for a period of up to ten days, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described will via: Borough Green Road and High Street

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate repair works to a sewer pipe in the region of Bray Cottage.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE HEATH, EAST MALLING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on The Heath, East Malling between its junctions with Wateringbury Road and Pikey Lane/Well Street.

The Order will become effective on 7th April 2008, for a period of up to 1 week, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described will be via: Wateringbury Road, Chapel Street, High Street, Mill Street, Sticks Lane, Well Street.

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate the installation of a new electrical main.

Highways – Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS IN TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (ROAD CLOSURE) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008

NOTICE is hereby given that to allow highway maintenance works to take place the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on the routes described in column 1 of the Schedule hereto on or after 21st April 2008 for an estimated period of one week or for a period not exceeding 18 months.

The alternative for each route described in column 1 of the Schedule hereto is described in column 2 of that Schedule.

THE SCHEDULE

B2162 Yalding Road/ Maidstone Road, Collier Street/Horsmonden from its junction with Spenny Lane to its junction with Churn Lane.	B2162 Yalding Rd, Green Lane, Hunton Rd, Underlyn Lane, B2079 Maidstone Rd/ High Street/Church Green/ West End/ Gouldhurst Rd/ Marden Road, Winchet Hill, Summerhill, Ballards Hill, Goudhurst Road, The Heath and remainder of Maidstone Road
Beech Lane, Brencley for its entire length.	A21 Hastings Road and Crysals Road.
Perch Lane, Lamberhurst for its entire length.	A21 Hastings Road and Clay Hill Road.
Gore Lane, Goudhurst for its entire length.	Marden Road and Summerhill.
Ruck Lane, Horsmonden from its junction with Lamberhurst Road to its junction with Spelmonden Road.	Lamberhurst Road and Spelmonden Road.
Cock Lane (Ruck Lane), Horsmonden from its junction with Lamberhurst Road to its junction with Marle Place Road.	Lamberhurst Road and Marle Place Road.
B2162 Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden from its junction with Ruck Lane to its junction with Tong Lane.	Lamberhurst Rd, The Heath, Goudhurst Rd, Ballards Hill, Marden Rd, North Rd, The Plain, West Rd, Clayhill, Station Rd, Goudhurst Rd, Horsmonden Rd and remainder of Lamberhurst Rd

Advance road works information boards will be placed prior to works commencing on site, giving details as to when works are scheduled to commence and expected duration. Each closure is not expected to last more than one day

Order will only be effective when the appropriate signs are displayed.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(DUNSTAN ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Dunstan Road between the junctions of Upper Grosvenor Road and Woodbury Park Road on or after Monday 21st April 2008 for an estimated period of up to 4 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for westbound traffic via Upper Grosvenor Road, Park Road, Woodbury Park Road and for eastbound traffic vice versa.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused, which are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is John Adley on 07774 983419.

**For further information, please contact Geoff Harrison-Mee,
Director for Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
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C-CLASS estates have always been a good seller for Mercedes-Benz, but the latest model is set to be an even bigger hit.

The German marque is confident that it can retain the, er, slightly older car buyer for its junior load-lugger rather than the equivalent saloon, but also attract a new younger owner.

Several forces support the argument. For a start, the latest C-Class range is the first to genuinely attack its BMW 3-Series arch-rival on driver enjoyment, yet harnesses this genuine agility with decent ride comfort.

The new estate also carries over the saloon's muscular styling, highlighted by the upswept line from the rear of the front wheel arch – for an estate, this car is a real eye-catcher yet offers far more load capacity than before.

Then there is Mercedes-Benz's cunning marketing ploy – saloons and estates with coupé grilles. The saloon introduced a choice, extended to the estate, allowing buyers to buy 'classic' models with the traditional grille topped by the three-pointed star or a 'sport' model with the badge mounted coupé-style within the grille.

Perhaps a small detail, but the latter option gives the estate the appeal to younger buyers and converts from rival brands.

Which brings us to the whole point of the car; it might look more sporty and racy than the 'C' Estate that it replaces, but it has genuine load-lugging ability as well as spaciousness in a sector where some contenders err towards a superficial 'lifestyle estate' image.

The new car's huge cabin carries a maximum of 1,500 litres with seats folded, which is 146 better than the car it replaces, 85 more than the Jaguar X-Class Estate, 115 better than the BMW 3-Series Touring and an impressive 320 ahead of the Audi A4 Avant – though this is about to be replaced.

There are also numerous aids to better load-

New Merc estate a Class act



carrying: bag hooks, anchor rings, net covers, a collapsible shopping crate and a push-button electronically-operated tailgate.

There is even an optional 'Easy-Pack' kit for partitioning the load compartment and securing any cargo, plus a best-in-class towing capacity of up to 1,800kg and optional self-levelling suspension. The car also has a maximum five-star award in the European NCAP crash tests.

But if the C-Class Estate is to recruit those extra and younger buyers, it is the superior driving experience and some terrific engines that may have the final say.

Even junior engines have plenty of urge with refinement and while the 170bhp C220 CDI will be the runaway best-seller with private buyers and company car 'user choosers', the effortless power of the 224bhp V6 C320 CDI is tempting.

Interior quality has also been upped; while not the most intuitive dashboard in its class, it works well for what may just be the best compact executive estate on the market.



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Honda's rocket
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Subaru's all-new
Forester Page 53



Classic Clubman
returns Pages 56-57



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Bromley Vauxhall - Tel: 020 8464 3456
 93 - 101 Bromley Common - A21 Junction 4 M25
Woolwich Vauxhall - Tel: 020 8854 8161
 40 Artillery Place - Opposite Barracks
Farnham Vauxhall - Tel: 01322 862366
 The roundabout A20 - 1 mile from Brands Hatch

Swanley Vauxhall - Tel: 01322 662890
 London Road - Birchwood
Rochester Vauxhall - Tel: 01634 723723
 Maritime Close, Medway City Estate, Rochester
Gravesend Vauxhall - Tel: 01474 565656
 40 The Overcliffe, Gravesend - Near the Town Centre
Dartford Vauxhall - Tel: 01322 227581
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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



Civic Type-R is No1 hot hatch

HONDA'S 'space shuttle' Civic Type-R is the nation's favourite three-door hot hatchback.

Since lift-off a year ago, 5,192 buyers have opted for this sleek-looking sporting model, against 4,778 equivalent Ford Focus STs and 1,984 VW Golf GTIs – including VW's 'Edition 30' 30th anniversary special.

What is more, 90 per cent of customers have opted for the higher specification GT grade cabin.

Honda is only too happy to shout about the car's success, since some commenta-

tors claimed that the latest Type-R is a poor follow-up to the previous car.

Okay, the old car was a more responsive 'point-and-shoot' machine, but it had nothing like the looks and presence of the latest car, with its slick styling and features like the arrowhead door handles, triangular exhausts and starship dashboard.

We were so impressed with the car that we shot a special film for our online Motors TV – see 'Star Drive' at www.carsforkent.co.uk or watch via 'cars and transport' at www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

New Bravo version for Fiat green team



FIAT'S car range has Europe's lowest average CO2 emissions (144g/km) and has just gained another 'greener' model – the Ford Focus-class Bravo 1.6 16v MultiJet diesel.

In its lower output MultiJet 105 guise (from £13,595) it can average over 60mpg and emits 119g/km of CO2 in special ECO form (from £13,895).

Standard kit on the five-door

newcomer includes air con, electric windows and driver, passenger and side airbags, but most buyers are likely to upgrade to the Dynamic trim level (from £14,995) that brings cruise control, leather steering wheel, driver's seat lumbar support, refrigerated compartment, plus Fiat's 'Blue&Me' hands-free in-car communication and entertainment system.

...And still on the eco-friendly theme

SKODA is keen to highlight the effect of the Budget on its new 'eco' version of the all-new Fabia supermini. The Fabia Greenline can average around 70mpg and, with CO2 emissions of just 109g/km of CO2, is exempt from the London congestion charge.

The 1.4 TDI Fabia GreenLine – £11,490 and £12,140 in hatch and estate form respectively – achieves this through aerodynamic panels beneath the chassis, replacement of the spare tyre with a puncture kit and raising the front bumper by 35mm.



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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the New Fabia Range: Urban 27.7 (10.2) – 49.6 (5.7), Extra-urban 47.1 (6.0) – 68.9 (4.1), Combined 37.7 (7.5) – 61.4 (4.6). CO2 emissions for the New Fabia Range 120 – 180g/km. Vehicles are shown for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede all previously advertised offers. Prices correct at time of going to press. Offers are subject to availability. Licensed credit brokers, written details available on request, finance is subject to status. E&OE.

by
STEVELOADER

Subaru boxes clever with new diesel SUV

CAUGHT cold by the switch to diesel and by the rapid ageing of its bread-and-butter Impreza model, 4x4 specialist Subaru looked to be losing its grip on the UK market.

But the Japanese brand has hit back over the past few months by launching its long-awaited diesel engine, an all-new Impreza, the Justy supermini – albeit minus 4x4 – and launches its second generation Forester 'crossover' model this month.

The last could be key to Subaru's revival, although it will not get the new diesel engine until later on.

Unlike its 1997-vintage predecessor – heavily revised in 2003 – the new Forester looks more SUV (sports utility vehicle) than 'jacked-up' estate.

Though the original was as capable in rougher conditions as many rugged-looking rivals, the conventional looks undoubtedly deterred buyers keen to bask in 4x4 imagery.

They will like the newcomer's styling far more and it should please the serious user too, with its shorter overhangs and sharper exit/entry angles for tougher terrain.

It looks well capable of attacking rivals such as the Nissan X-Trail, Honda CR-V or Toyota RAV4.

Ironically, Toyota has close ties with Subaru and its parent Fuji Heavy Industries and Subaru could surely have filled the diesel gap with a unit from there or any number of other sources, but chose to stay true to its love of horizontally opposed or 'boxer' engines by developing an 'oil-burner' in-house.

The layout allows weight to be kept low for better handling, reduces cylinder and piston wear and produces high-power outputs – points not lost on the industry's other boxer champion, Porsche.

For now, the new car features an updated version of Subaru's existing 2.0-litre petrol



BOUNCING BACK: Subaru's all-new Forester (below right) reaches dealers this month replacing the previous Forester which was capable, but sedately styled (above left), while Subaru's boxer diesel was launched in the rugged Outback estate (top right) earlier this year.

boxer unit and all-wheel drive.

Prices start from £17,995 and standard equipment includes self-levelling rear suspension, cruise control, climate control air con, height and reach steering wheel adjustment, fog lamps, heated front seats, electric windows and mirrors and six airbags.

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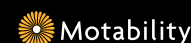
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Official Fuel Economy Figures for the MINI Range: Extra Urban 80.7-42.8 mpg (3.5-6.6 l/100km). Urban 60.1-22.2 mpg (4.7-12.7 l/100km). Combined 72.4-32.5 mpg (3.9-8.7 l/100km). CO₂ emissions 104-208 g/km.

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DrivingReview

by
STEVE LOADERCHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk**MiniCooperClubman**

Clubman hits Mini objective

WHILE the enormous interior space of Dr Who's Tardis was science fiction, the roominess of another 1960s creation, the original Mini, was indisputable fact.

For all its marvellous packaging and plain driving fun though, BMW's reborn Mini is not as accommodating in relation to its size even if largely due to modern-day crash protection and durability.

No doubt sensitive to this one criticism though, BMW has tried to address it with the Clubman estate costing around £1,200 than equivalent Mini hatches, but it is still more a triumph of style, image and marketing.

It does have a 24cm stretch over and above the hatchback model and this boosts rear legroom by eight centimetres, with access to the back dramatically improved by a single backward opening rear side door.

The Clubman is also claimed to seat five, but with the back rest splitting 50/50 and the middle seat no more than a padded 'saddle' between comfortable outer bucket seats, the centre berth is really more of a punishment duty.

However, boot space is significantly

improved from 160 litres to 260 and including a decent under-floor space.

Okay, a Ford Fiesta boot offers 284 litres, but Mini buyers are not Fiesta buyers.

The car's retro effect is maintained by a pair of side-opening back doors à la original 1960s Mini Traveller/Countryman estates.

Apart from the door frames causing a slight obstruction to rearward vision where they join, they do swing wide enough to make loading just as easy as a lift-up hatch and both doors have useful cubby holes for the sort of paraphernalia normally left to roll around a car boot. But that rear side door is controversial – it's on the 'wrong' side.

BMW has invested millions to boost capacity at the Oxford plant and the UK is a key market, but the Germans opted to please left-hand drive markets by having the extra door on the right – the 'offside' rather than pavement side of the car.

So rear passengers will probably tilt the front passenger seat and enter and exit via the car's front nearside door.

Then again, it seems few would-be buyers actually care about the 'big door debate'. We borrowed our test car from Broad Oak Mini at Ashford's Orbital Park, where they've heard it all before.

"Yes, it's pretty much the first thing people say if they're here to look at the hatchback, but it's the last if they're here for a Clubman. They tend to like the Clubman look and the extra room and see the door as a bonus," said the site's brand manager Juliet Foreman.

Our test car was the Cooper entry model, but there is also a diesel Cooper D (£15,400) and turbocharged Cooper S (£17,210).

None are slouches – even the 110bhp diesel hits 62mph in 10.4 seconds – and they are greener too thanks to BMW/Mini's new 'efficient dynamics' engine package, including 'Auto

DrivingStats

- Mini Cooper Clubman £14,235
- Model range: from test car-£17,210
- Garage stats: 3.94m by 1.68m five-door estate
- Powertrain: 1,598cc/120bhp four-cylinder petrol unit driving front wheels through a six-speed manual gearbox
- Performance: top speed 125mph and 0-62mph in 9.8 seconds
- How green?: category-C and CO2 emissions/132g per km
- Official fuel figures: combined 51.4mpg
- Fuel tank: 40 litres/8.8 gallons
- Insurance group: 8
- Warranty: three years/unlimited miles
- Website: www.mini.co.uk
- Rivals: Audi A3 and Mercedes A-Class

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Start-Stop', which stops the engine automatically whenever the car stops and neutral is selected – it restarts when the clutch pedal is depressed – saving fuel and reducing emissions.

There is also 'brake energy regeneration' to recharge the battery and relieve engine demand via the alternator.

Minis are not cheap – but maybe they are. Fact is that they hold their money so well, especially with the 'no-brainer' TLC five-year service package and option packages that they offer

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UP-TO-DATE: BMW's new Mini Clubman maintains the 1960s version of side opening back doors, but still lacks the space of the original



cheaper motoring overall than many rivals.

The first time I got in one to test it, I thought "After all that hype, this had better be bloody good..." It was.

The ride is quite taut, but grip and handling is excellent while the well-designed interior, with trademark big central speedo and homage to the original 1960s icon, is a masterpiece.

I still favour the hatch, but Mini lovers who need extra space will find the Clubman is a head-turner too.

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MANUFACTURING took centre stage at a major Kent business awards ceremony last week as Ashford-based Sunray Engineering shone as the Business of the Year.

Service sectors have tended to surge ahead over the last few decades, leaving manufacturing behind, but there has been a welcome resurgence recently.

Sunray, which makes and installs steel industrial doors, security doors, fire doors and louvre systems, won the top accolade at the 2008 Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce Business Awards. KOS Media was media sponsor of the awards, and Tony Patey, business editor, was one of the judges.

Up until about four years ago Sunray was a fairly low-key operation with one customer accounting for nearly 90 per cent of its then £1 million turnover. Now it has more than 30 staff and expects to reach sales of £5 million within three years.

David Evans, managing director, said: "We are, of course, absolutely delighted. But it represents two years of very, very hard work by everyone in the business."

Most Promising New Business was Borough Green-based Molly Maid, a house-cleaning franchise which also carries oven



WINNERS: Sunray Engineering's (left to right) Damian Kerry, Clive Kennett and Karl Davies with Clive Morris from Lloyds TSB

cleaning and ironing and employs 14 people, and the appropriately named Smile Centre dental practice from Canterbury, employing 16 people, took the award for Excellence in Customer Service.

The Entrepreneur of the Year award went

to Paul Bailes, managing director of Cohesion Design Services, a Tonbridge-based design and visual communications agency.

Sponsors included Lloyds TSB, Kent Adult Education, Brachers, Kent University and Ashford, Canterbury and Maidstone councils.

Bad prognosis for retailers in administration

TWO local well-known retail names hit cash trouble this week – and although both went into company "intensive care" one has gone bust.

Beds and bedroom furniture firm The Sleep Depot Ltd, which had nine Kent outlets through concessions in stores, hit the wall leaving around 30 staff without jobs.

This also means no orders can be fulfilled. But since March 2 the company has been paying customers' deposits into a trust account, so as a result all customers who ordered goods since then should be entitled to a full refund.

Joint administrators James Gleave and Anne O'Keefe, partners at Kroll Corporate Advisory and Restructuring Group, will be writing to customers, but anyone concerned can call the helpline on 0161 838 4539.

Usually when a firm goes into administration there is a chance of survival while company "doctors" try and find a buyer. But Sleep Depot was closed immediately.

Mr Gleave said: "The trading environment for all retailers is particularly tough at present and following a thorough evaluation of the company, we have regrettably concluded that it is impossible for The Sleep Depot Limited to continue to trade."

Sleep Depot had outlets within Paul Simon at Ashford, Aylesford, Broadstairs, Canterbury, Maidstone and Sittingbourne, while through Land of Leather it was at Canterbury, Gillingham and Orpington.

Also, Toyzone – which has outlets in Ashford and Chatham – has gone into administration after hitting cash flow problems. But the two local outlets, which have a total of 18 staff, will, like others in the group, continue trading while a buyer is sought.

David Crawshaw and Richard Hill of KPMG Restructuring have been appointed joint administrators of the firm, and its parent company Youngsters Ltd based in Oxfordshire.

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Former dropout proves he's got what it takes

A YOUNG entrepreneur from Maidstone who was a school drop-out before going on to start his own recruitment business was one of three fighting for a top national enterprise award.

Karl Gannon, now 29, was expelled from school and lived slept rough for a period. With no qualifications, he suffered from depression and drifted in and out of low-paid jobs. But he craved

stability and so he approached youth charity The Prince's Trust with an idea for his own business.

He was up for a prestigious CapGemini Enterprise Award at The Prince's Trust & Royal Bank of Scotland Celebrate Success final, but he was just pipped at the post.

With financial help from The Trust, Karl set up Education Sense Limited, providing special education needs teaching staff to schools throughout Kent. He was spurred to do this as he had dyslexia and dyspraxia at school and lost out through lack of sup-



TURNAROUND: Karl Gannon went from being a down-and-out to successful entrepreneur

port for these conditions.

Since starting the business a year ago, Karl has placed over 60 teachers in schools and has taken on four members of staff.

Mr Gannon said: "Thanks to all the support and encouragement I've received from The Prince's Trust, in particular my business mentor... my business is going from strength to strength."

The Prince's Trust and RBS Celebrate Success awards took place at the Leicester Square Odeon Cinema in London, where a short film about Karl was screened. They are part of a £5m initiative between The Prince's Trust and The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) to recognise the achievements of disadvantaged young people.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Youth club thrilled with developer's gift

YOUNG people living at Kings Hill will have more things to do in their spare time, thanks to a welcome boost to the new youth club's funds.

Kings Hill developer Liberty Property Trust UK Ltd has given £5,000 to the club to put towards a project of its choice. This is the first of 10 annual contributions, totalling £50,000.

Lindsay Sharp, chairman of the Kings Hill youth club trustees, said she was delighted with the donation: "Our youth club opened three months ago and is proving so popular we are hoping to extend its opening to two evenings a week and this donation has come at just the right time."

Richard Long, Kent County Council member for Malling Rural East, presented the cheque at a VIP reception in the Kings Hill community centre.

He said: "KCC is Liberty Property Trust's development partner at Kings Hill and over the past 19 years the area has been totally transformed."

Economic efforts expand over the city

MEMBERSHIP of Canterbury4 Business (C4B) has almost doubled during the last 12 months, bringing the number of associates to 235, and more than 90 people are now involved with C4B's project group committees.

Launched in 2003, it is an economic partnership between the public, private and voluntary organisations operating within the Canterbury area, and lobbies for economic improvements, resources and opportunities on behalf of the local business community.

Taking training to Africa and beyond

SITTINGBOURNE-based legal compliance company Due Diligence Solutions has just returned from training in Nigeria.

It already covers business across the world, for the likes of Nike and Manchester United, but this trip was its first visit to West Africa. The three day foreign venture included trips to Lagos and Abuja. The companies' leading fire safety consultant, Mitch Perry, made the journey.

The firm was winner of Swale New Business of the Year Award 2007, and is also the official preferred service provider for Gillingham FC.



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Ruling makes VAT more recoverable

A LANDMARK decision by the House of Lords, which looks set to allow companies to recover thousands of pounds of VAT could work in favour for companies in Kent.

According to accountants Horwath Clark Whitehill, which has offices in Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone, Condé Nast Publications, which produce magazines such as GQ, Vogue and Vanity Fair, recently successfully challenged a change in legislation.

It was brought in by HM Revenue and Customs in 1996 and 1997 and attempted to limit the recovery of input tax (VAT recovered on purchases) and overpayment of output tax (VAT charged on sales) to three years.

The publishing company was attempting to recover VAT on staff entertainment over a longer period and after the House of Lords ruled in their favour, a series of further tax claims could now be filed, according to Mark Anderson, a partner at HCW's office in Tunbridge Wells.

Mr Anderson said: "This case looks certain to have an impact for other companies particularly those who have had VAT recovery denied on flotation and other revenue raising costs. Prior to this decision any input tax had to be recovered within three years or it was lost – now this VAT is recoverable.

"The Lord's decision means that it is now possible to recover input tax from at least May 1, 1997, going back even as far as 1973."

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A healthy perspective

KENT Mindful Employer has a simple mission statement – to help small to medium-sized enterprises manage mental wellbeing in the workplace.

The aim is for local employers to set up networks to support each other to better understand issues that cause stress or loss of mental wellbeing.

Businesses who have successfully retained valuable staff can offer advice and guidance to others. By understanding and facing up to mental health issues, businesses are better able to address their own requirements for better staff retention and a healthier workforce.

The idea was launched in Devon in 2004 to help businesses deal with increasing problems around sickness absence and stress. It proved an enormous success and the Kent Mindful Initiative is being introduced this month.

Louise Jessup, an advisor, talked to KOS Media's Julie Maddocks about the Mindful Employer initiative.

Q Could Mindful Employer have helped you with your experience?

A Enormously, a lot of the work I have done has been in paving the way for myself. It would have been a lot easier to be able to negotiate with employers who understood my needs.

As the mental wellbeing tool WRAP (wellness recover action plan) is being looked at for recovery, being addressed and rolled out, in many ways it could have been devised from my journey.

I am living proof that one can successfully leave the horrors of a major mental health problem behind and go on to lead a happy and fulfilled life.

Q How important do you think the scheme Mindful Employer is?

A I think it is very important. One of the problems of going back to work is it takes a long time to adjust.

There are times when I don't function well, but by being open with my employers and them being understanding with me, it means I can always work to the best of my ability because they make reasonable adjustments

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Louise Jessup recently returned to work after 25 years of ill health and incapacity benefits. Now running her own business as well as working part time in a supermarket, she has no doubt that if Kent Mindful Employer initiative had been around while she was struggling to cope, her journey back to work would have been much easier.



which help me to work at my maximum all the time for them.

In the same way, the Mindful Employer scheme would support both workers and bosses alike.

Q How do you see it improving relationships?

A There are instances in all our lives, like bereavement or divorce, that affect our mental health.

One of the advantages about the scheme is that the employer understands that we may have difficulties at times.

If you have a stable working relationship, it's an enormous help in carrying on with your life and not everything collapsing at once.

Q How do you see your role within the initiative?

A I see that I will be there to help both employee and employer. I can share my experiences and be on hand for anyone who may be going through the same sort of problem. If perhaps they are asking for something to happen at work and don't know to do it, or if they're not sure how it could work for them, then hopefully I can help. It is always better to try and find a way through difficult times or offer an alternative solution.

Q How important is it talking?

A For me one of the most important things is to be open about my mental health issues.

Talking means everybody can understand someone's depression or problems.

When people talk it normalises it, and it brings it down to a level and reduces the stigma by being open about it.

Talking about it with your bosses and colleagues is key, and helps people to get to know you, understand and work with you, and you can work with them, then you can get the maximum out of your work, which after all is what we're all after.

• For more information about Kent Mindful Employer go to www.kentmindfulemployer.net or contact Lynn Marchant on 07881 816232. You can also see Lynn and Louise talking about the scheme at www.yourkent.tv.co.uk and click on the Business Channel.

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House performance is airtight

FAVERSHAM-based Invicta Clean Energy has played an important role in constructing the most airtight house in Britain – confirmed by experts from the Building Research Establishment who said they had never tested a lower value.

The three-storey house – built for a local businessman in Braintree, Essex – achieved an air tightness test twenty times better than the minimum level required.

This kind of outstanding performance can be achieved only by choosing suitable materials and by an almost obsessive attention to detail on the part of each contractor, one of which was Invicta which installed a solar hot water and heating system known as a solar combi system.

Installing this kind of system means making holes in the roof – not helpful



MODERN: Three-storey property is the most airtight house in Britain

when building an airtight house. But working with architects and other contractors, Invicta was able to minimise the impact of the holes for the pipework from the solar collector into the house.

This is the future of housing. By 2016 building regulations will have been tightened to ensure that all new dwellings achieve similar standards of energy efficiency with virtually zero carbon emissions.

It's no secret that Global will takeover Invicta FM

NEWSFLASH for James and Ali – a last-minute panic over a potential liability did not derail a long-running takeover saga for GCap, owner of Invicta FM, Gold Kent and Classic FM by rapidly growing Global Radio.

Over the weekend reports surfaced that media regulator Ofcom is continuing a probe into profit-making phone-in competition Secret Sound, broadcast on several GCap stations last year.

There were fears that the potential liability – which came to light as Global was in late stages of due diligence, that is checking out if there are any potential skeletons in the cupboard – could pose a possible obstacle to Global's £375 million offer as it approached its official deadline.

But breakfast show duo James Heming and Ali Wheeler can now report that the takeover for their group is now poised to go ahead, with just the formal thumbs up needed from GCap shareholders. This will mean that GCap, the UK's largest commercial radio company, will go private.

GCap's bosses, led by new chief executive Fru Hazlitt, had

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

rebuffed two earlier informal offers by Global, a private-equity backed company which has already taken over Chrysalis Radio and with it the Heart, Galaxy and LBC stations.

The takeover will be two-thirds funded by Irish investors John Magnier and JP McManus along with horseracing tycoon Michael Tabor, and the other third by HBOS bank.

The takeover saga began just after the New Year when Global tentatively offered 190p for each GCap share. That was promptly rejected by GCap's board of directors as undervaluing the company even though the bid represented a 57 per cent premium on its value.

Then Global upped the stakes on February 28 with another informal offer of 202p a share. This was again snubbed by GCap, but when Global came back with an offer of 225p a share the lure was too much, and GCap's board recommended shareholders take the money.

Richard Menzies-Gow, analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort, said: "I think that Fru Hazlitt comes out of this looking very good. She and chairman Richard Eyre should be congratulated for getting their shareholders a pretty good price for their holdings."

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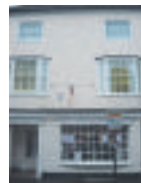


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EMPLOYMENT relations service Acas is urging South East businesses to save money and reduce absenteeism by making sure employees are healthy at work. And to underline the fact it has launched a new guide to help businesses promote and manage a healthy workplace.

Available online at www.acas.org.uk 'Health, work and wellbeing in the workplace' offers valuable and free advice to businesses, HR managers and employees. Paul Beard, Acas director for the South East, said: "This guide helps businesses to ensure that measures are taken to look after employees, which in turn will boost productivity and effectiveness."

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Employee or worker? Know the difference

REGIONAL law firm
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Passmore warns business-

es that agency workers may have "employee" status and this could usher in unwanted employment-related risks and costs. It may also come as a revelation to some people that, legally, worker and employee do not mean the same thing.

It is crucial for a business to identify whether someone is a worker or an employee – the latter does have more rights, but there is a definite legal cut-off between the two.

Employees have statutory entitlements which include sick pay, maternity leave and compensation for unfair dismissal and redun-

By **TONY PATEY**

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cy. Workers do not.

The Court of Appeal has just given its latest view of the issue when deciding that an agency worker supplied to London Borough of Greenwich was not an employee of the council. It refused to imply any contract of employment between them because she was not obliged to work for the council and they were not obliged to provide her work.

In the light of this decision, businesses should still establish from the following whether they are in reality employing people like the agency worker:

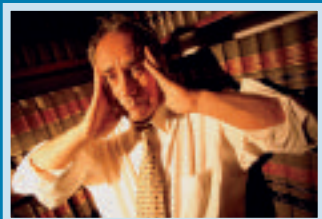
- If the business is obliged to provide the worker with work and the worker is obliged to perform that work personally this could point to employment
- If the agency is not required to send someone in his or her place

then this could also point to employment

- If the worker is controlled in the manner of what they do by the end user this also suggests employment status

- If the wording of the agency agreement between the end user and the agency contains provisions that reinforce the above factors and the end user does not have visibility of the contractual relationship between agency worker and agency then this could store up trouble for the future.

Nick Hobden, partner and head of employment law at Thomson Snell & Passmore, which has 36 partners and more than 200 staff at offices in Tunbridge Wells and the Thames Gateway, said: "If you have any concerns regarding the status of your workers, it is always advisable to seek specialist legal advice to manage potential risks in the future."



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Age concern over retirement policy

SOME confusion over retirement issues has already surfaced just 17 months after the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 came into force with a government fanfare.

Asghar Jeraj, employment solicitor for Bromley-based Judge & Priestley, said the regulations prohibit discrimination, harassment and victimisation against a person on the grounds of their age relating to employment and vocational training.

Also, they have introduced a retirement procedure enabling employers to legally retire employees solely on the basis of their age when they turn 65 provided they go through a procedure known as the "duty to consider".

So, paradoxically, there is a situation where the government forbids employers to make decisions regarding their treatment of existing and potential employees based on their age and yet on the other hand employers can

retire an employee quite legitimately when they reach 65.

This rather confusing position has finally been challenged by Heyday, a membership organisation backed by Age Concern.

Heyday has argued that by allowing employees to be retired at 65 or above effectively leaves the employees without the right or choice to work when they are quite capable of doing so.

Also it says the policy is not reasonably justified by a legitimate aim and that by allowing employers to justify age discrimination in such instances, the government has gone further than permitted under the European Equal Treatment Framework Directive.

Heyday has now been referred to the European Court of Justice and a decision is likely to be made within the next year.

The law on accidents at work

HISTORICALLY accidents at work are viewed from the perspective of an employer's liability rather than health and safety, according to leading law firm Gullands.

The principle of strict liability dominates health and safety legislation. Amanda Finn, of Gullands solicitors in Maidstone, said: "Basically this says the employer cannot defend an action by showing it was not at fault or the accident was not foreseeable. If the accident happened the employer is liable."

The law in this area is



dominated by European Directives known to us as the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

The ethos of this legislation is to avoid risks to safety and health and to evaluate risks which cannot be avoided.

When a statutory duty has

been breached remedies can occur under both criminal and civil law unless the specific regulation says otherwise.

As you might expect case law in this area swings from pro-defendant to pro-claimant and it is always wise to obtain specialist advice on this area.

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RT: FIXED R%: 5.67% L: 90% U: 01/06/2011
OD: £1500 ARRANGEMENTABBEY
RT: FIXED R%: 5.72% L: 90% U: 02/06/2011
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PRUDENTIAL	£568
SCOTTISH WIDOWS	£561

MALE AGED 65

CANADA LIFE	£654
STANDARD LIFE	£648
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£643
LEGAL & GENERAL	£642
NORWICH UNION	£641
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SCOTTISH WIDOWS	£624

FEMALE AGED 60

CANADA LIFE	£583
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SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£569
LEGAL & GENERAL	£566
NORWICH UNION	£564
PRUDENTIAL	£555
SCOTTISH WIDOWS	£540

FEMALE AGED 65

CANADA LIFE	£634
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Protect yourself against tribunals with paperwork

EMPLOYMENT law is being forgotten about even though it is essential for employers, and keeping accurate documents is vital, says MTA solicitors of Bromley.

Employers must maintain good paperwork for every employee concerning every area of employment. Industrial tribunal cases have risen and it costs businesses a fortune when they don't have the correct documentation.

It protects companies from paying unnecessary damages later if a complaint is taken to tribunal. Also, thorough, precise and honest documentation may deter potential claimants and their lawyers.

The latest published employment tribunal figures, for the 12 months ending March, show a rising trend in claims with a total of 132,577 compared with 115,039 in the previous year. Half of these claims were for unfair dismissal or breach of contract.

Unfair

The average award for unfair dismissal in 2006 was £8,670 up from £7,303 in 2005. This is a huge cost for a business to pay especially when some of these cases could have been avoided in the first place if thorough documentation and procedures were in place.

In many cases organisations simply don't have the time or the resources to ensure documentation is up to date and accurate, and that procedures are followed through, and mistakes can easily be made. Here are some tips:

- Employers need to be aware that the moment an applicant unconditionally accepts a job offer a contract of employment comes into play. The contract can provide evidence of the terms and conditions of employment between you and the employee if there is a dispute later on
- Employers must maintain all documents concerning an employee from the start of employment to the end
- It's vital you seek advice from a solicitor, to check that both employment contracts and handbooks are complying with employment regulations and covering all areas and that you are keeping things up to date. You also need to ensure that changes to working hours and salaries are updated in the terms of employment
- Only in severe cases of gross misconduct should an employee be dismissed without warning. Even then, they should first be suspended with pay, while an investigation into the accusation takes place. The employee should be given a chance to answer the accusations, and only then should a final decision on disciplinary action or dismissal be made. Refusing to give the employee a chance to explain their side before sacking them could leave you open to an unfair dismissal claim.

By **TONY PATEY**

tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

sion on disciplinary action or dismissal be made. Refusing to give the employee a chance to explain their side before sacking them could leave you open to an unfair dismissal claim.

Steps such as these are relatively insignificant from a financial point of view when considering how much could potentially be lost if litigation went forward, and keeping up-to-date with ever-changing legislation with an employment law advisor is essential for a prosperous business.

How to handle redundancies

REDUNDANCIES have become an everyday occurrence as organisations strive to keep shareholders contented in the highly competitive 21st century.

Employers need to ensure that they get the legal aspect right. Organisations also need to be aware of decreased productivity as staff lose their motivation due to concerns about their future. Organisations need to follow the law rigorously whilst giving the necessary support to their employees.

It is recommended that employers make provision for redundancy procedures in their employee contracts. However, if this is not done, there are specific procedures that an employer must follow.

Employers should make sure that they consult the employees about the redundancy; use objective criteria for selection; consider alternatives to redundancy; give any redundancy pay and notice due and give employees the right to appeal.

If you do not follow the statutory three step procedure, the dismissal being automatically unfair.

Baileyfields is holding a free seminar on May 15 at the Thorne Estate Business Park, Betersden, from 9-10.30am. For details call 01233 822537 or email rborg@baileyfields.com.

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CATHERINE Bond is only 28 but she knows she has a lifetime in and out of prison ahead of her.

But Ms Bond, a solicitor with Gullands of Maidstone, doesn't want us feeling sorry for her because she has chosen the life which is mapped out before her.

As a member of the firm's criminal department, she decided she wanted to specialise in prison law, a branch of the legal profession often shunned by other solicitors.

Her job now is to respond to complaints made by prisoners, visit them in jail and represent them in the best way she can.

"When I entered the legal profession I wanted to help people, particularly the most disadvantaged people in society," she said.

"We all have rights and prisoners are entitled to have those rights protected."

"They don't have a voice as we, who enjoy the freedom of the outside world, do, and I want to be that voice for them."

Ms Bond advertises in the prison newspaper Inside Times and whenever inmates feel they have a just case regarding their treatment, they can apply to see Catherine and



ask her to present their case.

Catherine also raises funds for charities Shelter and Barnardos and runs marathons.

Movers & Shakers



LEADING firm of Kent chartered accountants, McCabe Ford Williams, has appointed three new partners from 1 April. All will be working out of the firm's Sittingbourne office.

Amanda Ireland, Clair Rayner and Bryan Kemsley each bring different disciplines to the partnership which now numbers 18, spread over six Kent offices.

The three new partners mean there will now be six at Sittingbourne.

MFW's Managing Partner, Peter Frowde, also based at Sittingbourne said he was pleased to be able to wel-

come three younger partners as part of the firm's succession policy.

"It's important the partnership reflects the various disciplines of the firm and I am pleased Amanda, Clair and Bryan have grasped this opportunity to become an important part of the firm's future."

"Our clients will also be pleased to know their affairs are in such capable hands," he said.

Pictured, from left to right, are Clair Rayner, partner Ian Ellis, managing partner, Peter Frowde, Amanda Ireland and Bryan Kemsley.



JONATHAN Denny has been re-elected to serve another five years as managing partner at Cripps Harries Hall LLP, a leading South East law firm.

With a mandate to continue in his role until 2012, Denny will steer the firm through the changing legal landscape as the Legal Services Act starts to make its mark.

Since he was first elected as managing partner in 1990 Mr Denny has adopted an innovative commercial approach - he has made a clear division between the roles of a fee-earner and a law firm manager, focusing exclusively on leading the firm.

In 2005, Denny led an organisational restructuring to create multi-disciplinary business groups and in the same year Cripps became one of the earlier firms to convert to LLP status. Such changes have resulted in strong year-on-year financial performance - it increased income by 17 per cent in 2005-06 and 12 per cent in 2006-07.



Tilhill and all our specialist contractors," said Bill Hocking, managing director of Skanska Civil Engineering.

UPM Tilhill began work on the roadside landscaping contract for Skanska back in August 2007 with

an undertaking to plant 80,000 native trees and seed 35 hectares with grasses and wildflowers.

Photo caption: Bill Hocking presents the certificate to Rick Vallis of UPM Tilhill at Skanska's Tollgate Site Offices.



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It's time to link up

COMPANIES in north Kent are able to call on the skills of a new Business Link adviser who has joined the organisation's Thames Gateway team.

Karyn Dooley has settled into her new role offering free information, advice and support to businesses alongside fellow advisers Charles Shacklock, Debbie Hough and Judy Stanley.

Before joining Business Link, Karyn, who has a degree in business and human resources, worked in the recruitment sector with strategic planning being a particular area of expertise.

She has an excellent knowledge of the issues affecting the region's small and medium-sized enterprises.

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Academy gives kids a second shot at big time

By DAVID PRITCHARD

YOUTH football is becoming an increasingly ruthless business with professional clubs progressively less patient to nurture young players, but one coaching academy in Kent is trying to reverse the process.

As the rewards grow in the higher echelons of the game, recruitment of young players is becoming a global process. Premier League youth squads can be almost as cosmopolitan as the first team.

Even the most talented youngsters are often cast aside by academies for not progressing fast enough.

Luke Freeman, who moved from Gillingham to Arsenal in January and recently helped England to victory in an international tournament, was overlooked by Charlton at a young age.

Maidstone-based Soccer Elite FA is working to catch the discarded youngsters, help them improve their game and help them back into a club elsewhere.

Professionals

The academy was set up by former professional players Tony Browne and Lee Spiller in 2006 to help the substantial pool of talent they had watched lose their way in the game.

Browne told Kent on Sunday: "We were lucky enough to become professionals but we had seen so many people we had known fall by the wayside and give up football. There is still a lot of talent out there, all they needed at the time was a bit of guidance. When you get bombed out of a club it is the worst feeling in the world."

"I think clubs want instant success a lot of the time. It is hard to tell how good a kid is going to be in five years time and some don't want to take the risk."

After starting in 2006, Soccer Elite has enjoyed great success at finding clubs for their most talented protégés.

They have forged close links with Gillingham, who have taken 10 players into their youth ranks, while two are at Crystal Palace and another is on trial at West Ham.

Non-league clubs have also benefited, with eight under-13 players going to Dover Athletic earlier this season.

Spiller said: "We can help the non-league clubs out as well because they are not all going to play professional football. A lot will



Picture: SOCCER ELITE FA

PROMISING: Ellis Landolo (left) and Mitchell Dickenson are two Soccer Elite graduates now at Gillingham

not make it but they can still fall back and get paid for playing football at a lower level.

"Whether you go to Gillingham, West Ham or Dover it is a success story, to get the boys in somewhere and turn them into young professionals is what we are after really."

The youngsters train once a week with Soccer Elite's coaches and play games against professional clubs' youth teams.

Around a third of Soccer Elite's 400 youngsters aged seven to 14 are in their advanced academy, but the majority are players of lower abilities who enjoy playing the game just for fun.

They have a thriving girls section headed by Charlton Athletic Ladies' player Danni Farmer. The former England under-21 international has high hopes for several of her players, with two girls about to go on trial to the Addicks.

There are big plans to expand the centre, with a disabled team and a permanent top class artificial pitch based at Oldborough School in Maidstone in the pipeline.

For more information, visit www.soccerelitefa.com or send an e-mail to soccere-lite@googlemail.com.



TICKET RUSH: Ebbsfleet hope to sell their 15,000 ticket allocation for the Wembley final by the end of this week

A Fleet on its way to Wembley

EBBSFLEET United sold 6,000 tickets for the FA Trophy final at Wembley on the first day and fully expect to be asking for more than their 15,000 allocation.

The Fleet take on Torquay United at the cup final on May 10 and are hoping with the backing of their 27,000 MyFootballClub members, the club will have a major presence at Wembley.

Fans queued up in their droves at the club's Stonebridge Road ground earlier this week to buy tickets and club secretary Roly Edwards told Kent on Sunday he expected the majority of the tickets to have been sold by the end of the weekend.

He said: "The 15,000 allocation we have been given I believe will sell out. People are not just buying one ticket, whole families are going and in some cases people are buying 10 or 12 in one visit. I spoke to a local metal company in the area and they have told me they want most of their workers to go which will be

a further 120 tickets."

While the fans prepare for the cup final, the team is getting ready for a set of fixtures that will see the club play four games in eight days.

With their play-off ambitions looking bleak, it is set to be a tough week for Liam Daish and his side as he looks to find out who will line-up for the showpiece final in May.

Assistant boss Alan Kimble prefers to look at it as a chance to get some games out of the way so the players can concentrate on preparing for the final.

He said: "Next week is going to be very tough with the amount of games we have coming up. It is crazy, but it is just how it has all worked out."

"In some ways, getting these games out of the way so quickly gives us only four games to play to finish the season and concentrate on the FA Trophy final. Tiredness is not an issue for the players because they will be working as hard as possible to make sure Liam does not overlook them for the final in May."



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Chart Hills rated top 20 course

KENT'S Chart Hills Golf Club has been voted in the top 20 courses in Europe putting it on par with Wentworth, Loch Lomond and St Andrews.

The club came 19th in the Peugeot Golf Guide with a rating of 18 out of 20.

Anonymous visitors marked the club in a series of strict criteria and deemed that Chart Hills is among the very best in Europe.

The course layout was heavily praised and was described as "brilliant, bold and uncompromising intelligence... An exceptional course and exceptional facilities."

It is a high accolade for a course which is little more than 10 years old and Nick Faldo's first creation as a designer.

Faldo is understandably proud of his creation, having previously told the media: "Chart Hills has surpassed even my expectations and I doubt that anyone would ever tire

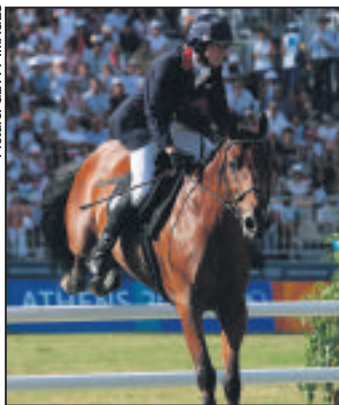


EXCEPTIONAL: Chart Hills Golf Club

of playing this course."

Chart Hills general manager, David Colyer, said: "This is a tremendous achievement. We're all delighted to be regarded in the same company as St Andrews Old Course, extremely proud of what we have achieved, and it is testament to all the hard work that all of the staff have put in over the course of the last year."

Picture: GETTY IMAGES



FOCUS: Georgina Harland hopes to peak at the World Championships in Budapest

Harland's Olympic hopes for Budapest

MODERN pentathlete Georgina Harland stepped up her preparations for Olympic qualification with a creditable seventh place finish in the British leg of the sport's World Cup.

The event at Millfield School in Somerset was the 29-year-old's first top class competition for six months.

A simple error on the riding course dented her chances of finishing higher up the leaderboard, but overall Harland was satisfied with her return. She said: "Although I didn't finish on the podium, which is obviously what we aim for, I can definitely take some positives away from it."

"I lost 100 points for a mistake in the riding, there was quite a tight turn and I didn't have the momentum to clear the fence. Other than that the round was faultless."

"Without that I would have finished third, so in that sense I'm not coming away from it panicking, I'm just looking to build on it now."

A post-viral infection threatened to end Harland's career for good last summer and forced her to sit out training for three months – a disaster so close to Beijing.

But her recovery has gathered pace since the autumn and after winning a bronze medal in Athens four years ago, she is determined to reach another Olympics.

The only way to qualify now is to finish in the top three at the World Championships in Budapest at the end of May, which Harland, from Canterbury, believes is realistic.

She said: "The World Championships are my focus, that's when I'm aiming to peak. It would have been nice to finish on the podium at Millfield but ultimately it was a step in the right direction for me and I have got to be pleased with how I performed."

Stars gear up ready for race

TOM HOWARD looks at Kent's chances in the opening opening weekend of the British Superbike Championship



HOPEFUL: Camier, Scott Smart and Shakey gear up ready for Brands Hatch opener

LEON Camier will be racing through the pain this weekend in the opening round of the British Superbike Championship at Brands Hatch.

The Airwaves Ducati rider, from Ashford, has had his fair share of bad luck over the last seven months. A crash during a race in August broke his pelvis and leg which ended his debut season in the championship. Ahead of his first Superbike race since the accident, the rider has had a painkilling injection and will have to go through the pain barrier after a testing accident damaged his shoulder last month.

The circuit is expecting one of its biggest crowds of the season and being Camier's favourite track, the rider is frustrated he is not fully fit for his first race for his new team.

Camier told Kent on Sunday: "I am really annoyed that I am not fit because Brands Hatch is a track that I really like and in my debut last year I had a second and a third place. The Ducati bike always runs well here so I think the best I can hope for is to get some points for the team."

"The shoulder I hurt in testing a few weeks ago is still not right which means I am still not fully fit so I am going to have to play it by ear."

Kent will be represented by 2003 champion

Shane 'Shakey' Byrne and Maidstone rider Scott Smart.

Following a fifth overall finish in the series last year, Byrne has joined Camier at Airwaves Ducati and has been tipped to challenge HM Plant Honda's Leon Haslam for the title. The former champion has settled in nicely at his new team and believes he has a great year ahead of him.

Shakey said: "I am feeling pretty good ahead of the first race. Some people are tipping me for the championship which is good in a way because that is what I want to achieve this year. It is a fair statement as Airwaves Ducati are one of the strongest teams in the championship and you only have to look at their history and the number of titles they have won. From a personal point of view I am very confident and would love to secure the title once again."

Learning

Hawk Kawasaki's Scott Smart is hoping a brand new bike will help propel him back into the top 10 this year. Last season the Maidstone rider finished 13th in the championship and was unable to secure a podium finish all year. Despite a lack of testing the early signs look good, but Smart has admitted this weekend could be one for learning about his new machine.

He said: "We have not been able to do as much testing as the front running teams. We cannot compete with the big teams and go to Europe to test. We know the new bike has a really good engine but suspension settings could be interesting to work out for Brands."

"The first race of the season is always exciting as nobody really knows how fast everyone is going to be. It can usually throw up a bunch of odd results."

News and sport updated daily online
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Dickson looks to a positive future after freak injury

IN AN age when comprehensive scouting networks leave no stone unturned in the search of the next wonderkid, few talented footballers remain undiscovered into their teens, so technically Chris Dickson should not exist.

Logic dictates that to still be playing in the eighth tier of English football as a 22-year-old, the striker's chance of making the big time had long gone.

But a year ago Dickson was plucked from relative obscurity at Dulwich Hamlet to join Charlton Athletic.

Since then it has been a year of contrasts for the striker, who has found time to become a cult hero during a loan spell at Gillingham, earn a call-up to the Ghana squad and break into the Charlton first team.

But just as the live-wire forward looked set to make a big impact, he was struck down by a freak injury. In late January while preparing for a game away at Stoke, Dickson twisted his knee in a hotel reception.

Two months on from the worst injury of his career, the former Erith & Belvedere hitman is staying positive.

Difficult

He told Kent on Sunday: "It has been very difficult mentally to spend so long out. Obviously you could lose yourself and go out and do lots of things you shouldn't but I'm staying as focused as possible. Sometimes it is difficult but I got my lucky break in the game very late so it is not hard to stay disciplined."

The recovery has progressed to sessions on an exercise bike to improve his fitness, but he will not make a return until next season.

Dickson remains philosophical: "This season has been great overall but next season is going to be even bigger. I want to become a first team regular and at the start of every season no matter who I'm playing for, I always set myself the target of finishing as top scorer."

Barring a sudden glut of goals at Priestfield, Dickson will end up as Gillingham's top scorer after a dazzling loan spell at the club.

He netted 11 goals in 14 appearances for the club, which made him an instant hit with the fans. Dickson still looks out for the club's results and has been back to watch their games against Huddersfield and Yeovil.

His form at Gillingham caught the eye of Ghana coach Claude Le Roy, who included the youngster in his provisional squad for the Africa Cup of Nations.

Despite missing out in the final selection, Dickson remains confident he can break into the team sooner rather than later.



STAYING FOCUSED: Chris Dickson hopes to hit top form when he returns from injury next season
Picture: KEITH SLATER

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Picture: ADY KERRY

Looking towards a Key summer

Skipper has a lot of faith in a talented Kent squad



ANOTHER April has arrived, and for me it marks the start of my 11th season as a professional at Kent. It is also my third season as captain, and I want to tell you why I am so excited as I look forward to the summer ahead.

I am not one of those people who believes in saying we are going to win this competition and that competition, but what I will say is that I have got more faith in the group of players at my command than ever before.

This is a very talented Kent squad, and importantly we have already shown we have the capability of winning silverware. Last August's triumph at the Twenty20 Cup finals day will live long in our memories, but I can see this squad performing even better across the board this year.

It will be difficult to get into the first-choice eleven, for a start, such is the competition for places within the squad, and that is always a good thing. Yet, to my mind, it is just as important for every player in the squad to realise they have a part to play in the weeks and months that lie ahead: we won't win anything just with the same 11 players every time, and the effects of a long campaign will mean we will need to perform as a squad if we are to be successful.

But when I look around the dressing room I see a real depth in quality, in both batting and bowling, and that means we should be able to manage our bowlers in particular to make sure they have every chance of getting through the entire summer with enough energy left by the end of it.

The big bonus for us at the moment is Amjad Khan. Everyone at Kent knows just how hard it has been for him to be out of the game for so long, and how much work he has had to put in to get fit again after a really serious knee operation.

But his dedication and determination,



and the massive amount of help he has received from our physio Nimmo Reid, has meant he is starting this season well ahead of where we expected him to be and is champing at the bit to bowl. He just loves to bowl, and it's great to have a genuinely fast bowler with that sort of attitude.

And, to be honest, in pre-season he has looked so good in practice that you've sometimes had to pinch yourself to remember that this is a guy who last played for us more than 18 months ago.

We will have to make some important decisions about Amjad's workload, especially in the early part of the season, but to have a fast bowler of his quality available again – and looking as good as new – is a huge boost to everyone at the club.

Martin Siggers is another class act who seems to have got over his injury problems of the early part of last season, and on the seam bowling front especially, we have got an enviable depth of talent.

With Yasir Arafat confirmed as our overseas player, plus Azhar Mahmood, Ryan McLaren, Simon Cook and Robbie Joseph as proven wicket-takers at first-class level, and Darren Stevens to bowl his medium pace, I have a decent amount of firepower to call on.

Amjad's return though could give us that extra pace which so often makes the difference.

Elsewhere in the squad, the batting lineup has a settled and strong look to it, and Neil Dexter looks to have returned from his winter away an even better player. James Tredwell and Joe Denly will have benefited

massively from their winter involvement with England and the England Lions, although we will obviously have to cast an eye around for another spinner, following Min Patel's retirement, if anything should happen to Tredwell, or if he gets an England call during the season.

As a club, we are obviously waiting on Justin Kemp's situation regarding the Indian Cricket League and his eligibility or otherwise for this county season. Clearly we want him to be free to be able to play for Kent, which he desperately wants to do, but he is only one small pawn in what is a multi-million pound conflict between the cricket authorities and the Indian Cricket League so we will have to see what happens.

It looks as if the whole matter might go to the courts, but all I can say at the minute is that it is a sad thing when a cricketer in the prime of his playing life at 30 cannot just get on with playing cricket for the teams of his choice.

As for myself, I feel very refreshed and ready to go after my first winter for a long time that did not involve either an overseas tour or an Academy programme. I went to Perth for seven weeks early in the New Year, to work with batting coach 'Noddy' Holder, and I feel I have improved and honed my game during these past six months.

I was happy with my own form last summer too, and because it was the first time for a while that I didn't have any problems from my shoulder, and hopefully the operation I had on it two winters ago has really done its job.

As I said earlier, I'm raring to go as much as my team is, but as we batsmen always start on nought I just want to get into the season and feel like I'm off and running again.

• Rob Key, the Kent captain and England batsman, is one of Kent on Sunday's regular sports columnists.



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GUTTED: Kent's Jamie Staff fears former team mate Rob Hayles may have lost his place in the Great Britain team

Staff shows concern for team mate

FORMER world champion Rob Hayles will not feature in Great Britain's squad for the Olympics, according to Kent cyclist Jamie Staff.

Hayles was handed a two week suspension from competitive cycling last week, after a blood test showed his haemotocrit levels were too high. These levels show the percentage of red blood cells in a person's blood and Hayles' reading could suggest that illegal blood boosting could have occurred.

The rider will be tested again in the next two weeks to see if he will be allowed to compete again. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Staff, the two-time world champion and former team mate of Hayles, believes his old friend is innocent but that might not prove enough for him to regain a place in the British Olympic squad.

Staff, 35, told Kent on Sunday: "I know Rob very well and it is very unfortunate what has happened to him."

"In the mornings your haemotocrit levels are higher and our coaches often tell us not to get up quickly and keep our legs in the air. Rob must have done some walking or something for it to be too high. I think it will cost him a place in the Olympics and it would be a very sad way for Rob to go out of the sport as he only has a couple of years left."

The Ashford-born cyclist also feels that not appearing in last week's World Championships has put a further dent in Hayles' chances of featuring at the Beijing Olympics and it could mean he may never compete again.

Staff added: "He has not failed a drugs test – it was a blood test. What has happened can happen to anyone and Rob is gutted. It is a big shame for Rob and the Great Britain team, but I am sure he will be found innocent."

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CRICKET
Rob Key talks about
his excitement for the
summer season **71**

RED CARD GIVEN TO DISRESPECT

Kent FA boss demands pro players set a good example for grass roots teams

By **GLENN PEARSON**

RESPECT in the game should start at the top or it could hinder any chance of improving player behaviour at grass roots level, according to Kent County FA chairman Barry Bright.

Behaviour towards referees at the top level is arguably at an all-time low and the relationship has diminished, so much so that players are unable to interact with officials as they perhaps used to.

The Football Association's strategy to improve the national game has a big emphasis on respect – an issue that has been further highlighted by Chelsea defender Ashley Cole's disrespectful response to referee Mike Riley in a game against Tottenham on March 19.

Respect is also an important part of the Kent FA's blueprint for the future and although measures have already been taken to improve player and referee relations, Bright, who is also vice-chairman of the FA, believes the first major step needs to be taken by top Premiership clubs.

He said: "Raising standards of behaviour needs to come not just from the players, but those running clubs. The professionals need to set the example and if we can get that we may have a chance of improving things at grass roots."

"We should be making sure the superstars at leading clubs behave themselves in a way that the children or adults won't clone the next time they play."

While Kent have a steady influx of referees that join the association every year, the same number are leaving, which is a major concern for Bright.

There have been reports of abuse towards referees at a local level for a few years now, and Bright said the county will come down hard on those select few that ruin the game for others.

He said: "I will not have members of this association threatened or assaulted. The Referees' Association and the game as a whole expects a county football association to deal with it strongly and it will be. We can't accept that. One assault on a match referee is one too many."

The behaviour of spectators has also been called into question with the pressure they put on youngsters deemed harmful to many, so much so that football academies ensure players' family and friends are kept away



RED CARD OFFENCE: Javier Mascherano was sent off in last month's game against Manchester United after displaying dissent towards Kent referee Steve Bennett

from the touchline and are not allowed to comment during the game, otherwise they are asked to leave.

It is not something that can be easily replicated on recreation grounds around Kent, but Bright is urging clubs to police their own spectators to ensure the pressure on young players and referees doesn't get to a point where they end up walking away from the game.

He said: "For those few who deem it appropriate to swear and threaten young referees, that has got to stop. It is not good for the game."

"It is not just happening in Kent, it is a

nationwide problem, but we are determined to address it in Kent. It won't be easy but I am hoping common sense among those in the clubs will ride the storm.

"I am quite confident we can do it but I don't really want to get heavy, and certainly don't want to stop youngsters playing – we want their clubs there."

"But those that, in the minority, are creating the difficulties should go and do something else or behave."

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